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BEST QBs

Dear Huskers:

In the August issue of *Huskers Illustrated* there is a story about the top 20 Nebraska players of all-time. I was wondering if you could tell me who the top 10 quarterbacks of all-time are. I know Turner Gill would be the best. Thanks.
Jarrod McCartney
Red Cloud, Neb.

Jarrod: That's a tough call, but we'll

point you in the general vicinity. First, Nebraska has produced four All-American quarterbacks: Jerry Tagge, David Humm, Vince Ferragamo and Steve Taylor. Gill never made first-team All-America, but he does hold several school records and was a three-time All-Big Eight selection, so he would be a fifth one. Bob Churchich was All-Big Eight in 1966 and is currently No. 5 on Nebraska's career passing-yards list (that makes six). Dennis Claridge would

be a seventh candidate, as he made All-Big Eight in 1962-63. John Bordogna was All-Big Seven in 1953 and held the school single-game and single-season rushing records for quarterbacks before Taylor broke them. Completing a list of quarterbacks from that point would be dangerous, so we'll just throw out some very capable candidates: Tom Sorely, Jeff Quinn, Van Brownson, Craig Sundberg and Frank Patrick. That's more than 10. Take your pick or add more if you'd like.

BLACK HATS

Dear Huskers:

I am very happy that Oklahoma is struggling, and the Sooners are now paying the price of having let Barry Switzer run a wicked program for all those years. It is time for Oklahoma to pay the piper.

I would like to agree with a reader who wrote in recently and pointed out how unfair it is that schools like Nebraska and others in the Big Eight must suffer for the misdeeds of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. I have a suggestion for a way that will allow the probation teams to be on TV and still allow the conference schools to get their money while not giving the probation teams a recruiting benefit by having their games on TV.

I suggest you let probation teams be on TV but make them wear black helmets that look bad, as a reminder that they have done something wrong. This is nothing more unusual than what we do with criminals. We put them in uniforms that have stripes on them so that people in the free world can tell that they're crooks.

What the NCAA is doing now is hurting too many innocent people while the law breakers get away free. For example, what are the Sooner offenders doing now? Barry Switzer's going to write a book and make millions of dollars, but he's not on probation. The recruiting coordinator is now probably drawing a nice salary in the private sector, and one of the other assistants who got nailed is still on the team. Don't think for a minute that those people are suffering financial shortfalls. Like I said, make 'em wear black hats.

Cyress Kratzworth
Council Bluffs, Iowa

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Dear Huskers:

I think you guys have a really great magazine and it's gotten much better over the course of the years. I was especially happy to see your format grow from 32 pages in 1985 to 48 pages in 1986, and those massive yearbooks are the best, even compared to the national guys. One thing, though, please try to give us an occasional update on some of the former greats such as Willie Harper and Johnny Rodgers.

I have personally passed on subscription cards to some of my Husker fanatical friends in Scranton as we must stay a very close-knit group in the East. We catch a lot of bull from Pitt and Penn State fans, but not Penn State much the last couple of years. You might be interested to know that there are more than just a few Cornhusker followers out here. Unfortunately, most of them are not that aware of *Huskers Illustrated*.

I am just curious: how long has the magazine been around? I have only subscribed the last few years. How many people get *Huskers Illustrated*? I enjoy reading the letters to the editor from people in different countries, especially the servicemen. I think that is great that our fighting boys can keep track of the Big Red. Again, good job, and slip us some of those oldtimers every now and then.

Jim Demurth
Scranton, Pa.

Jim: *Huskers Illustrated* will be celebrating its 10th anniversary next year. Just in the last few years your Big Red Journal has grown from 11,517 subscribers in 1986 to 13,769. That's an increase of 20 percent. Your contributions to that growth are greatly appreciated.

CLASSY TDs

Dear Huskers:

Let's give the Nebraska Cornhusker players a big hand for showing tremendous class when they score touchdowns. I think compared to a lot of other schools that our guys know how to act. And it is refreshing to see one of our scholar-athletes kneel in the end zone after a score to give thanks to the Big Guy in the Sky. That's just fine with me compared to what some players do: wiggling like a bunch of fish out of water and pointing fingers at people to taunt

them. That's pitiful.

I was concerned in the first couple of games that we might have some problems getting the job done this year, but I can tell now that the boys have it rolling in a big way. I believe Bryan Carpenter is the best fullback we've had, right next to Tom Rathman. Boy, that Carpenter can run. I was sorry to see

that Lance Lewis got his neck hurt and I do hope he comes back safely.

Jeremiah Hull
Detroit, Mich.

We want to hear your comments and answer your questions. Address them to "Letters," P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, NE 68501. ■

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Speed and Grace

Bruce Pickens had it all . . . as a sprinter. Now he's using that quickness in football.

By Paul Hammel



Pickens was "green as a gourd" in junior college.

Bruce Pickens jumped out of the starting blocks in high school sprinting toward a goal of reaching the national leaders in the 100- and 200-meter dashes.

At Westport High School in Kansas City, Mo., Pickens ran a 10.45-second, 100-meter dash and was a member of a state-record 4-by-100 meter relay team.

Speed. Grace. People took notice. But a football coach from Coffeyville Junior College in Kansas, Dick Foster, noticed something else: maybe this kid could play football.

Sure, Pickens played football in high school — some I-back, some corner-back, mostly monster back — but he didn't particularly like it.

His high school program wasn't that successful. The team, rebuilding and admittedly disorganized, with less than 20 players, broke a 48-game losing streak in Pickens' sophomore year. It got better, winning about half its games the next two seasons, but it didn't impress Pickens — he wanted to run to the top in track, not football, spikes.

Coaches were looking elsewhere for football talent. Foster was recruiting a teammate of Pickens, and recruiting hard. Foster lost the prospect to college basketball, but the loss wasn't total — the recruit told Foster to take a look at Bruce Pickens. He's a good athlete, the future basketballer said, and he ran a 20.7 in the 200-meters.

It was pure speculation, Foster recalls. Pickens was "as green as a gourd," and as undisciplined as a desert mustang, but he had searing speed and good hands (he played high school basketball, too). Maybe he could be a wide receiver.

So Foster, whose program had molded stars like Mike Rozier, took a chance. Foster's son was the track coach at Coffeyville, as well as an offensive line coach in football. Pickens was still too

green to play football, so he would be redshirted in football and run some track. Maybe that would help; maybe he'd develop. Maybe.

Luckily for Nebraska, Foster was right: Pickens' initial dream was off-track.

After his redshirt year, Pickens developed into one of the best defensive backs in Coffeyville's junior college conference. And, in the biggest game of the year against the Nebraska Junior Varsity, Pickens had his best game ever — three interceptions in a 49-14 victory.

Pass coverage, not passing batons, became his future and it's been a fairly quick sprint into the starting lineup at Nebraska ever since.

In his first year as a Cornhusker in 1988, the 5-foot-11, 190-pound Pickens worked his way up to become a letter-winning backup to two-year starter Lorenzo Hicks, another Kansas Citian, at cornerback. Even though his statistics weren't overpowering (14 tackles, two for losses of 8 yards, one interception for an 18-yard return), Big Eight coaches took notice, voting Pickens the conference's Defensive Newcomer of the Year.

As a senior junior this fall, Pickens has won the job of starting left cornerback, and is one of the fastest members of what has been described as Nebraska's swiftest "dime" pass-defense unit ever.

Defensive backs coach George Darlington said Pickens (4.58 in the 40-yard-dash) lines up among the fastest Black Shirts ever, along with 1989 starting left cornerback Tahaun Lewis, Tyrone Legette (Lewis' backup), Brian Davis, now of the Washington Redskins, and Rodney Lewis, who played five years with the New Orleans Saints.

"Bruce has a tremendous amount of talent, very fine quickness and speed, and is normally a good tackler," said Darlington. "He really has the potential to be as good a defensive back as we've ever had."

It wasn't always "easy Pickens," however, for this quiet, personable Missourian.

His junior college coach, Foster, now the recruiting coordinator at Oklahoma, said Pickens had the athletic ability but lacked many football skills.



Pickens caught Nebraska's eye after a JV game, against the Huskers.

"He was terrible, as bad as you can be," said Foster. "It was like putting a young thoroughbred in the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes ... you just don't do that."

During his redshirt year in junior college, Pickens worked with the scout squad. It was so small that players went both ways. Pickens played wide receiver and cornerback. He showed some promise, began to learn and like football.

Said Pickens, "I really started to understand football and to really enjoy it." There was no other way in Foster's disciplined system, discipline that Pickens said he had not seen in high school. You did it Foster's way, or you didn't do it at all. "You didn't really understand that until you saw someone packing their bags, going home," he said.

Pickens began lifting weights, something he didn't do earlier, and began learning the cues, the steps, the keys of

a defensive back. He worked hardest to prepare for Coffeyville's game with Nebraska.

Foster was a great motivator, said Pickens, and preached that the Nebraska JV game was where junior college players showed if they could play Division I football. Pickens watched films, charted Nebraska's tendencies.

"They did basically the same things that were in the films," said Pickens, and he got great "breaks" on the three passes he intercepted. He also had eight or 10 solid tackles, said Foster. He was more than just a runner-turned-football player by then, Foster said, "he'll come up and drill you. He's a tough, hard-nosed kid."

Pickens said he got a recruiting letter from Nebraska a week after Coffeyville's convincing victory over the JVs. There wasn't much discussion about where to attend college, Nebraska was one of the few schools that

recruited Pickens.

Hicks, a pal from his hometown, had a hand in the decision and in Pickens' development as a cornerback. Pickens said he made plenty of mistakes when he first arrived in Lincoln, but Nebraska coaches, and Hicks, were patient. "They worked with me, told me to concentrate."

It was an important lesson. "There are so many things out there that if you take your mind off the receiver for just a second, you can lose total contact with him," said Pickens. "That was hard when I first came up here."

One of Pickens' biggest lessons came in the 1988 Kansas game, a 63-10 Nebraska victory, when All-Big Eight receiver Willie Vaughn caught a 79-yard touchdown pass over him. It was the longest touchdown pass against the Black Shirts in 12 years.

Pickens lined up wrong, setting up 4 yards downfield of the fleet Vaughn (a summertime basketball pal) instead of



Bruce Pickens

8 yards. "We're taught to take three skates (steps)," said Pickens. "By the time I took three skates, he was past me. I just turned around and tried to catch him."

Pickens said he hasn't made a similar technical mistake since. "Now, in my second year, it's more reaction. I know what I'm supposed to do, I don't have to concentrate as much, I let my reactions take over."

Being able to take the lumps of a long touchdown reception is important for a defensive back, said Darlington. You have to: the whole stadium knows who you are. Nebraska's backs good-naturedly jab at each other when it happens, Darlington said. "Toast" is a popular post-burn nickname.

Luckily, Pickens has the right stuff, said Darlington. "If you get a kid back there who can't handle the pressure, he'll never be any good because he's always going to worry about making a mistake."

Pickens is not worrying now. In the first three games of 1989, he had nine tackles, tied for fifth-best on the team. He said his best game ever was the 42-30 win over pass-happy Utah. Pickens said he took 83 snaps with the defense, a track-meet type total that usually takes two games to amass, but

**"I guess I was at the right place at the right time."
— Bruce Pickens**

he had only one pass caught against him that he felt was his fault. "I enjoyed it," he said. "Playing against Northern Illinois and the Wishbone was kind of boring. Against a passing team, you know you're going to see the ball every four or five plays."

Seeing passes and gaining experience are the keys for Pickens, said Darlington. "It's only his 13th month with us. We expect him to develop more during his career here, to pick up the little things that come with experience."

Pickens can't wait. The defensive

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secondary, much fretted over since it returned only one starter this fall (strong safety Reggie Cooper), is better than it has shown thus far, said Pickens. It will get better. And next year, when just about everybody is back, it will be, well, Pickens can't wait.

He said he hopes the team, and his play, improves every week, and that he plays up to his potential. If he does, honors should come.

As far as track, Pickens said he will probably go out for the indoor season this winter. In one try last year, he ran third in the 55-meter dash, in 6.34 seconds, at an indoor meet at Kansas State. In the back of his mind, Pickens wonders how fast he might be able to run. His high school didn't have a track; he trained on the streets. Yet, by the time he reached junior college, he ran a 10.26, 100-meter and 20.81, 200-meter dash and qualified for the nationals before bowing out in the semifinals.

Track might help his pro prospects,

NEW BREED, NEW SPEED

George Darlington, Nebraska's defensive secondary coach, said Bruce Pickens is among the new generation of Black Shirt defensive backs.

Changes in offensive pass-blocking rules have thrown the advantage to the offense, he said. Blockers can now extend their hands, providing more time for quarterbacks to scan the secondary. Before, linemen had to keep their hands in against their chest.

"Teams can get away with just about anything as far as pass protection, so quarterbacks have a little longer to throw," said Darlington. "Because of that you have to have better cover people. You've got to have speed all over."

"If you tried to play a team like Utah or Miami with the traditional 4.8 (seconds in the 40-yard dash) cornerback we played with in the early '70s, you'd have no chance to match up."

Pickens said. Darlington said he likes to see his athletes try track in the off-season.

But make no mistake about it, Pickens thinks he's on the right track now, playing football instead of sprinting toward another goal.

"I guess I was at the right place at the

right time so many times," he said. "I was going to just run track and at the last minute, Dick Foster came up and talked to my mom ..."

"I went down there and it all fell into place for me. And then, to come into a program like this and as a fourth-year junior, I'm starting. It's really good." ■

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By Mike Babcock

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Danny Nee gets a solid shooter in Creswell.

Southern California is a nice place to spend the summer. But Chris Creswell didn't want to attend college there, which is why he's at Nebraska now.

The sophomore from Merced, Calif., by way of the University of California at Irvine, couldn't be happier.

The University of Nebraska is what college life is all about.

Nebraska really does offer the "good life." Just ask Creswell.

"From the time I was 10 years old until now, this kind of setting is what I imagined college would be," says Creswell, a sophomore guard.

"People really care, not only about sports but about the school in general. In California, that's rare. I love it here. I enjoy the people, being around them. I made more friends the first month I was here than I did in the entire year I was at (UC) Irvine."

Not that Creswell has hard feelings toward UC-Irvine or Anteater basketball coach Bill Mulligan. He still returns there in the summer to visit, play in pick-up games at tiny, out-moded Crawford Hall and lift weights.

Mulligan regularly loses players who transfer to other schools, according to Creswell. Academics definitely take priority at UC-Irvine. Mulligan has had to build his successful program with limited funds and facilities.

Initially, those things didn't seem like reason enough to go elsewhere, as far as Creswell was concerned. He was attracted to the Southern California lifestyle. Plus, "the coaches there were really nice," he says.

"They sold me on the school."

The 6-4 Creswell was a two-time All-Northern California selection as a forward at Merced High, playing on teams that were 58-7 in his two varsity seasons. His senior year, Merced High finished

30-3, winning the San Joaquin Valley sectional championship.

Among Creswell's teammates that year was 6-10 Don McLean, who's expected to start for UCLA this season.

Creswell, who holds the school records for season and career free throw shooting, averaged 16 points and five assists a game as a senior.

After the season, he was picked on the team that represented the West in the annual Boston Shootout.

Creswell also made recruiting visits to Pepperdine and Montana before settling on UC-Irvine. He signed a letter of intent during the NCAA's early signing period in November because "I didn't want the stress of recruiting throughout the (school) year."

That decision turned out to be a mistake. UC-Irvine "was exactly what I didn't want out of a college," says Creswell, a business major.

"It was a commuter campus. And no one cared about athletics. It was a joke. Our place (gym) held 5,000, and we couldn't get 2,500 to show up."

Creswell was a reserve for the Anteaters his freshman year, averaging 1.8 points and shooting 36 percent from three-point range. His career-high, eight points, came against UNLV.

Creswell didn't decide to transfer until the spring that year, after the NCAA's second letter of intent signing date. He contacted "a lot of places," most of which had already committed their available scholarships.

But Creswell's persistence paid off. Nebraska, New Mexico, Pepperdine and Loyola-Marymount were interested.

His first contact with Nebraska was facilitated by an Irvine assistant who knew Cornhusker assistant Gary Borgen. Lynn Mitchem, another Nebraska assistant, flew to California to watch Creswell play in a summer league.

Mitchem didn't arrive in time to see a game, according to Creswell. But he was able to watch a videotape of a game as well as watch Creswell work out.

"I only missed about two shots in two hours," Creswell says of the day Mitchem watched him. "I think he was really impressed by that. That's what did it. Otherwise, Nebraska probably wouldn't have been impressed."

Based on Mitchem's report, Corn-



Mitchem's glowing report sealed Creswell for Nebraska.

husker coach Danny Nee flew to Southern California and "sealed the deal," offering Creswell a scholarship.

Creswell accepted, even though he had never been to Nebraska. He could have made a recruiting visit, but he opted for a trip to Hong Kong, instead.

Immediately after signing scholarship papers with Nebraska, Creswell left for Hong Kong with an amateur development team representing California.

The 10-day trip was "incredible," Creswell says. "We played outdoors most of the time, and it was like 150 degrees. The humidity here doesn't even compare. I lost 15 or 20 pounds."

The competition was as intense as the heat and humidity. "We played against guys who had just got cut from the Chinese National team," he says.

Creswell had one day to recover from the jet lag of his trip. Then he packed his Honda Civic hatchback and hit Interstate 80 for Nebraska.

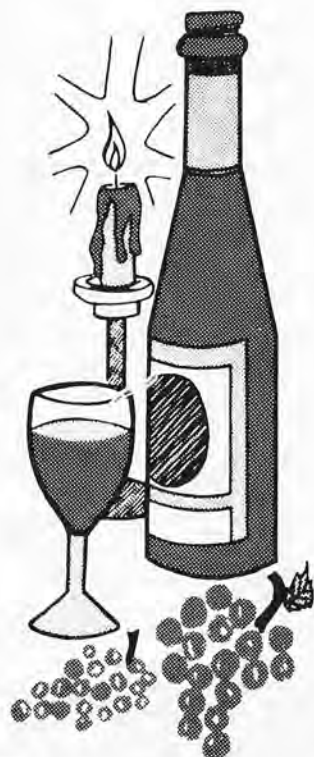
He had planned to make the 24-hour

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Husker Hoops

drive from San Francisco to Lincoln straight through. But he had to stop in Cheyenne, Wyo., after 16 hours of driving. "I thought I could do it (go straight through). But I got too fatigued. I was hallucinating."

Creswell stopped in the late morning, slept for four hours and resumed his trip, arriving in Lincoln at night.

He wasn't disappointed by what he found. "I had a smile for about three days after I got here," says Creswell. "I couldn't believe it, all the facilities and everything."

"I was amazed. My expectations were lower than what was here. I never expected anything like this."

Creswell considered leaving only once, in late February, and then not very seriously. He couldn't play, having to sit

Creswell played softball, hitting .750 with 10 home runs.

out a season because he had transferred, and the cold weather had set in with a vengeance. "It was an accumulation of things," he says.

Before those things got too bad, however, spring break came.

Creswell and Jon Bostick, a freshman wide receiver on the football team, spent it in California, and that brief vacation regenerated Creswell.

The redshirt season is out of the way now. That's all behind him.

Creswell doesn't regret having to sit out a year. "I'm glad I did it," he says. "It made me hungry, really. It was something I needed."

Creswell spent last summer in Newport Beach, Calif., living with friends and former UC-Irvine teammates in a beach-front house. He worked, first for a marketing firm and then installing window blinds, but mostly he played basketball, six days a week.

"There was great competition" in a "Just Say No" league at Cal State-LA, players like Stephen Thompson of Syracuse and Stacey Augmon of UNLV.

Creswell pushed himself every day, preparing for this season. "I don't think the (Nebraska) coaches thought I had it in me," he says. "I didn't slouch (last season), but I probably didn't go 100 percent in practice everyday, either. Now I will."

Creswell will compete for playing time at off guard this season. He could give the Cornhuskers something they've lacked, a three-point shooter.

Rich King, Nebraska's junior center, compares Creswell to former Oklahoma forward Dave Sieger, who also came from Southern California and was a deadly outside shooter. The comparison means little to Creswell, but it illustrates the respect he's earned already.

He's always been able to shoot, though "I was never really coached on how to shoot," says Creswell. "It (his shot) just developed naturally, I guess."

A little peer pressure at UC-Irvine helped, too. Former Anteater teammates Jeff Herdman, with whom he shares the Newport Beach summer home, and Justin Anderson, who's from North Dakota, are both excellent three-point shooters, according to Creswell.

Herdman "was the leading three-point shooter in the nation (last season) for a while," Creswell says.

"The three of us worked out constantly together, shooting."

Scott Brooks, a UC-Irvine graduate who now plays for the NBA Philadelphia 76ers, also joined them from time to time last summer. Brooks set a good example, according to Creswell.

"Scottie's a hard-worker. He has an incredible work ethic. He lifts weights three times a day and plays basketball three times a day," Creswell says.

Creswell didn't devote quite that much of his summer to basketball. He still had some time to play slow pitch softball — he hit .750 with 10 home runs — body surf and take advantage of the many other things Southern California offers.

It was an enjoyable summer. Nevertheless, Creswell was ready to return to Nebraska in August.

The pace is slower and the people are friendlier. Plus, Cornhusker athletes are made to feel special.

But "it's the people, not the athletes," says Creswell. "The people will always be here. We won't." ■

In the Bag

THE BLACK SHIRTS SACKED OREGON STATE UNMERCIFULLY,
AS THE BIG RED ROLLED AGAIN.

By Rod Henkel

LINCOLN, Neb. — Sack Attack. Blitzing Black Shirts. The Red Curtain.

Call it whatever you want, but the Nebraska defense continues to improve.

Saturday, the Black Shirts held Oregon State at bay until the Husker offense could solve a puzzling Beaver defense.

Nebraska, ranked third by the Associated Press last week, remained undefeated at 4-0 with a 35-7, convincing win against OSU.

Cornhusker defenders recorded 11 quarterback sacks totaling 89 yards in losses and they set up three touchdowns by creating Oregon State turnovers.

Despite yielding 228 total yards to the Beavers, the Huskers' bend-but-don't-break defense kept OSU out of the end zone with the exception of a 75-yard, 11-play scoring drive in the third quarter.

"I thought the defense played a decent football game," said NU coach Tom Osborne.

Seven members of the Black Shirts contributed to the sack attack. Mike Croel, Pat Engelbert, and Le Andre Anderson each dropped Oregon State quarterback Nick Schichtle twice for losses, while Ray Valladao, Kenny Walker, Jeff Mills, John Reece, and Travis Hill recorded one sack apiece.

Schichtle attempted 39 passes against Nebraska, completing 18 for 264 yards. Backup Matt Booher threw twice and connected for a 5-yard loss.

"When they throw it that many times, it's kind of hard not to let them complete a few," Osborne said. "We got decent pressure on the quarterback most of the time."

Besides the sacks, Oregon State rushed the football just 16 times. The Beavers gained 57 yards rushing, but the losses dropped their net ground yards



Bruce Pickens tags an OSU receiver.

Photo by John Bills

to a minus 36.

OSU's two quarterbacks made their team's longest runs on scrambles out of the pocket.

Nebraska defensive backs Reggie Cooper and Bruce Pickens each intercepted a Schichtle pass, and they and their secondary mates contributed to the Husker sacks.

"The defensive backs were doing a tremendous job on the receivers," said Engelbert, who saw extensive action due to the absence of injured defensive tackle Kent Wells. "If we can have a couple of extra seconds, every now and then we can get a sack."

Every now and then? Try at least once on eight of the Beavers' 12 possessions. NU did not record a sack on a pair of two-play OSU drives in the first half, a Beaver possession that ended in Pickens' interception, and Oregon State's scoring march.

Nebraska's defensive linemen could plan on rushing the passer nearly every play.

The Black Shirts doubled their season sack total with their 11 against OSU.

"It was really kind of fun to go out there and pass rush all the time," Engelbert said. "You can kind of let yourself go. We were all pretty loose."

Croel paced the Black Shirts from his right outside linebacker position with eight tackles, including five in the first quarter.

Linebacker Pat Tyrance boosted his team-leading tackle total to 32 with seven against Oregon State. Tahaun Lewis led NU defensive backs with five



Bostick catches his first pass, a TD bomb.

stops.

Engelbert, who topped NU linemen with six tackles, enjoyed himself Saturday, but the Columbus Scotus High School graduate realizes Wells will take some of his playing time once he returns.

"I was just kind of filling his shoes," Engelbert said. "He might have had five sacks instead of me getting just two."

Nebraska limited OSU's offense to 86 total yards in the first half while extending its unscored-upon string to six consecutive quarters.

The Beavers lost 7 yards on their ini-

tial possession and punted into a 10 mph wind.

After a 39-yard OSU punt and a 10-yard return by Richard Bell, NU drove 42 yards in 10 plays to take a 7-0 lead less than 11 minutes into the game.

NU quarterback Gerry Gdowski kept the football around left end for a 7-yard TD run.

Nebraska could not manage a first down on its next two drives, but the Husker defense provided a scoring opportunity.

Schichtle hit freshman wide receiver Maurice Wilson for a 16-yard gain before Lewis landed a hit on the Beaver that forced a fumble. NU's Mike Petko recovered on the Nebraska 35-yard line.

Fullback Bryan Carpenter climaxed the seven-play scoring trip with an 8-yard run. Gregg Barrios extended his successful PAT string to 38 straight and the Huskers made their 14-0 advantage stand up at halftime.

Big Red, ranked second in the nation in rushing offense and third in total offense entering the game, struggled with only 136 yards by intermission.

Oregon State's defense provided a stiff challenge with its stunting style.

"At times it was a little frustrating," Gdowski said. "They do things that can make you look bad. We knew eventually we'd come up with big plays."

No big plays existed for the Huskers in the opening two periods.

Starting I-back Ken Clark caught NU's longest pass in the first half, a 14-yarder, while his backup, Leodis Flowers, ran 12 yards for Nebraska's longest running play before halftime.

Clark, who entered the game as the nation's fifth-ranked rusher, carried 13 times for 41 first-half yards. He did, however, pass Jeff Kinney to rank sixth on the Nebraska career rushing chart, but his string of 100-yard, regular-season games stopped at six. He finished with 59 yards on 20 carries.

With its defensive front seven, Oregon State used loops, twists, and other techniques to create problems for the Nebraska offensive linemen.

Plus, the Beavers were big up front, averaging 266 pounds with their starting linemen.

"They're big and strong and know what to do up front," said NU's All-

SCORING SUMMARY

Nebraska 35, Oregon State 7

Oregon State.....	0	0	7	0	- 7
Nebraska	7	7	7	14	- 35

Neb — Gdowski 7 run (Barrios kick).

Neb — Carpenter 8 run (Barrios kick).

Neb — Clark 2 run (Barrios kick).

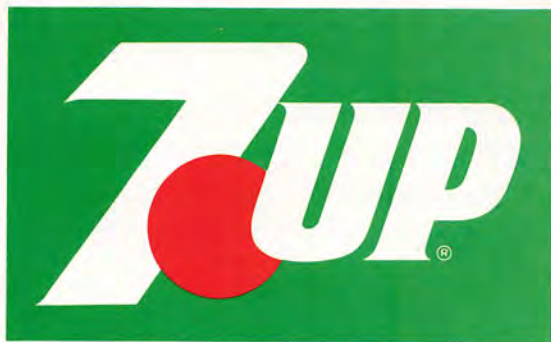
OSU — Chaffey 2 run (Bussanich kick).

Neb — Bostick 60 pass from Gdowski (Barrios kick).

Neb — Dowse 9 pass from Grant (Barrios kick).

Attendance: 76,290

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America center Jake Young.

Nebraska had faced similar defensive tactics against Minnesota; however, the Gophers' personnel could not match that of OSU.

"They do have some good people up front," Osborne said. "We knew they do a lot of twisting and looping and stunting with their linebackers and they did."

"When they do that, you've got to make big plays. We made a few, not as many as we should have."

But the Huskers adjusted and the big plays started happening in the second half.

And if that was not enough bad news for Oregon State, the Black Shirts remained stingy.

OSU kicker Troy Bussanich ended the Beavers' first third-quarter possession with his second missed field goal. His off-target attempt in the opening quarter snapped a string of nine consecutive made field goal attempts.

Pickens stopped the second Oregon State drive with an interception he returned to the Nebraska 20. The Beavers had driven from their 16 to the NU 35.

Big play No. 1 occurred on the snap following Pickens' theft, as Bell took a reverse and galloped 48 yards around the left end.

Clark scored from 2 yards out three plays later to extend the hosts' lead to 21-0.

Schichtle then engineered Oregon State's most productive possession by completing four of eight passes for 84 yards.

The Beavers regained possession at the Nebraska 44 following an NU punt and on the last play of the third period,

Cooper intercepted Schichtle to end the threat.

Nebraska scored four plays later on big play No. 2 — a 60-yard bomb from Gdowski to Jon Bostick. NU led 28-7 with 13:39 remaining to play.

"I think the game was ours to be had until they scored to make it 28-7," said OSU coach Dave Kragthorpe. "In the third quarter, we really controlled the tempo, but we still didn't come up with many points."

Bostick ended a possible redshirt year by playing against Oregon State. In his first varsity game as a Husker, Bostick's

only catch was the touchdown.

The sophomore split end from Bellevue, Wash., switched from the scout team to varsity earlier in the week, primarily because of an injured ankle suffered by starter Morgan Gregory.

"I was kind of rusty," Bostick said. "On the scout team, the offense of Minnesota and the other teams are not like Nebraska's."

Four mini-big plays — consisting of gains of 11 yards or more — contributed to NU's final touchdown.

Nebraska's top three quarterbacks,

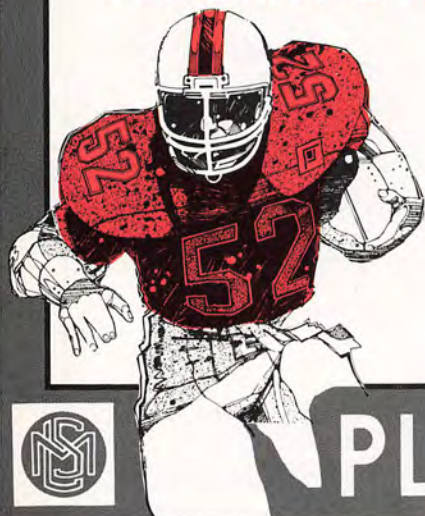
continued on page 21



Photo by John Bills

OSU couldn't hold back the Black Shirts (here, Mike Murray, 74).

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PLAYER OF THE WEEK

Croel Creams OSU

Nebraska's defense played a key role in Saturday's 35-7 win against Oregon State and Mike Croel was the most active Black Shirt.

A 6-3, 225-pound junior outside linebacker from Sudbury, Mass., Croel recorded six solo tackles, made two assists and broke up one pass.

Two of his team-leading eight tackles were sacks that resulted in losses totaling 15 yards.

Croel began with a bang against the Beavers by making five tackles in the first period.

He stopped OSU fullback Pat Chaffey for a 2-yard gain on the game's open-

ing play.

On the kickoff following Nebraska's initial touchdown, Croel dropped Oregon State return man Billy Hughely.

The ensuing Beaver possession featured two Croel tackles, including an 8-yard sack of QB Nick Schichtle. Croel had his second sack, a 7-yard loss, on the first play of OSU's third possession.

The two-time letterman broke up a Beaver pass in the third period.

Nebraska's defense concentrated on stopping the passing attack of Oregon State. In all, seven Black Shirts combined for 11 quarterback sacks and 89 yards of losses.

Croel raised his season tackle total to 23, which ties him with strong safety Reggie Cooper for second on the team behind Pat Tyrance, who has 32. Tyrance made seven tackles against OSU.

Other standout defensive performances Saturday were turned in by Pat Engelbert and Tahaun Lewis.

Engelbert, a sophomore noseguard, made six tackles, including two sacks for minus 18 yards.

A junior cornerback, Lewis led the NU secondary with five tackles. He also caused a fumble in the first period that eventually led to a Cornhusker touchdown.

On offense, Richard Bell led Nebraska with 82 yards on five rushing carries, including a 48-yard scamper that set up a third-quarter touchdown. Bell also caught a pass for 16 yards and returned a pair of punts for 10 yards. ■



Croel led all tacklers with eight stops.

Photo by John Bills

continued from page 19

Gdowski, Mickey Joseph, and Mike Grant, took turns directing the 86-yard, 14-play march, and each played a role in a big play.

Gdowski, who finished the game five-of-14 passing for 110 yards, hit Bell for a 16-yard completion. Bell followed with an 11-yard reverse, which brought his day's total to 82 rushing yards, tops among all players.

Joseph ran a quarterback draw for a 14-yard gain and Grant kept around right end for a pick up of 21 yards.

Grant hit wingback Mark Dowse on a 9-yard scoring pass with 4:24 left in the contest.

Nebraska's offensive statistics looked impressive — 397 total yards on a 5.5 yards-per-play average — but the production was down.

"I don't know of any team in the whole world that has played 10 perfect games," Bell said. "The good teams, when they're having a bad game, find a way to win. I praise the defense."

Chalk one up to the good ol' Nebraska Black Shirts. ■



DT Kenny Walker (57).

Photo by John Bills

Game	Score	First Downs		Rushing	Passing	Total	Punting	Fumbles	Pen.	Third	T-of-P
		Tot	Ru-Pa-Pn	Att-Yds-TD	Att-Com-Int-Yds-TD	Offense Att-Yds	No-Avg	No-Lost	No-Yds	Downs	
@NEBRASKA.....	48	24	19-5-0	47-470-4	13-8-1-102-2	60-557	2-42.5	5-4	5-40	1-6	24:41
No. Illinois.....	17	11	7-3-1	50-162-2	13-5-1-44-0	63-174	10-38.1	1-0	7-57	5-18	35:19
@NEBRASKA.....	42	23	21-2-0	59-442-5	8-3-1-27-0	67-459	3-37.3	2-1	7-60	2-9	31:23
Utah.....	30	25	8-13-4	31-105-0	44-26-3-297-4	75-402	3-49.0	2-0	11-70	6-15	28:37
NEBRASKA.....	48	22	12-8-2	55-295-5	19-13-0-235-1	74-530	3-43.0	5-1	9-94	9-16	31:40
@Minnesota.....	0	10	5-3-2	34-58-0	27-8-3-61-0	61-163	10-37.8	1-0	12-78	6-17	28:20
@NEBRASKA.....	35	21	16-4-1	55-313-3	17-6-0-119-2	72-397	7-38.1	4-0	8-68	9-17	29:57
Oregon State.....	7	16	3-12-1	27-(36)-1	41-19-2-264-0	68-228	6-44.2	5-1	6-44	7-15	30:03
@NEBRASKA.....											
Kansas State.....											
NEBRASKA.....											
@Missouri.....											
NEBRASKA.....											
@Oklahoma St.....											
@NEBRASKA.....											
Iowa State.....											
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@Colorado.....											
@NEBRASKA.....											
Kansas.....											
@NEBRASKA.....											
Oklahoma.....											

Makell, Hedrick Top Scouts

SCOUT TEAM VS. OREGON STATE

In the traditional Nebraska system, players come to Lincoln, play freshman football, redshirt to gain experience then mature into a varsity role.

Keith Makell is a little different. The process is similar but the youngster going through the system is the old man of this year's Cornhusker football team. At 30, Makell is only lacking experience — not maturity — in his climb into the Husker lineup. He is spending much of his second season at Nebraska as a member of the NU scout team and making the most of it. Being the oldest among over 100 players is enough to draw attention, but it was his play this week that caught the eye of the coaching staff as he was named Scout Team Offensive Player of the Week.

"We expected Oregon State to throw the ball quite a bit," said NU coach Jack Pierce. "Keith knew exactly what he was doing and played aggressively against our first-team defensive backs. He ran excellent patterns that helped the backs feel more comfortable with what to look for. But he also made some great plays, and that shows he is becoming a fine football player in his own right."

The 5-10, 170-pound Makell joined the Nebraska squad last season but did not see any varsity action in his first season of football since his days at Omaha Bryan High School.

On the other side of the line of scrimmage as well as the age spectrum, York, Neb., native Corey Hedrick is the Defensive Player of the Week.

"Corey is the kind of player who gives the offense a lot of trouble," said Husker coach Dan Young. "He has a good knowledge of the defensive scheme and even though he plays with a lot of intensity, he plays intelligently and doesn't make a lot of mistakes."

A 6-1, 215-pound junior, Hedrick is in his fourth year with the NU program. After recording four tackles in his stint with the Husker jayvees in 1986, Hedrick redshirted and is listed at third-team among the NU outside linebackers.

RECEIVER BLOCKING VS. OREGON STATE

Saturday's 35-7 win over Oregon State marked the debut of sophomore wide receiver Jon Bostick in a Nebraska uniform and he made the most of it. His first varsity reception was a big one — a 60-yard touchdown pass — that helped put the Beavers away.

But keep in mind that little things add up. And although senior tight end Monte Kratzenstein did not catch a pass last weekend, he played his role effectively and has earned Blocker of the Week honors among Ron Brown receiving corps.

"Monte has been an excellent leader all season long," Brown said. "He has really helped the younger guys come

Kratzenstein has shown brightest in his play away from the spotlight, according to Brown.

along and has played very unselfishly. He knows his role and plays it well."

According to Brown, where Kratzenstein shown brightest was in the play away from the spotlight.

"Oregon State did a lot of end-line stunts where the defensive tackle and end were crossing at the tight end spot," Brown said. "Our tight ends had to pick them up on the move and get the block at the point of attack. I thought all of our tight ends were able to do a good job of that."

"What was also impressive about Monte's game was his extra effort and the way he hustled away from the ball and made the downfield block."

Though his stats for the week weren't stellar in any one area, Kratzenstein's consistency gets him the nod. He did

record 14 point-of-attack blocks for a team high and was second with four knockdowns and four extra effort points to total a team-high 21 points.

Brown also said that Bostick, in particular, was impressive in his first outing and earns honorable-mention honors along with veteran Chip Bahe.

"I was real impressed with Jon," Brown said. "Of course he had the big play, but he played with a lot of intensity. He's a very competitive player and also a very competent one. I was very pleased."

"Overall, Chip and Jon played very well. They really went out of their way to make the extra effort to go downfield and knock people down."

BLOCKING STATS VS. OREGON STATE

Point of attack: Kratzenstein 14, Washington 10, Turner 7, Bell 5, Bahe 4, Leise 4, Garrett 3, Hughes 3, Gregory 2, Bostick 1, Prater 1.

Knockdowns: Turner 6, Bostick 4, Kratzenstein 3, Bell 2, Washington 2, Dowse 2, Bahe 1, Devall, Hughes 1, Pleasant 1.

Extra efforts: Bahe 6, Kratzenstein 4, Bostick 4, Dowse 2, Devall 2, Gregory 1, Bell 1, Washington 1, Garrett 1, Pleasant 1, Prater 1, D'Alesio 1, Makell 1, Hughes 1.

Stones: None.

Blazers: Turner 1, Gregory 1, Washington 1.

OREGON STATE TOTALS

Tight ends: Kratzenstein 21, Washington 14, Garrett 4, Leise 4, D'Alesio 1.

Split ends: Bahe 11, Bostick 9, Gregory 4, Devall 3, Pleasant 2, Makell 1.

Wingbacks: Turner 14, Bell 8, Hughes 5, Dowse 4, Prater 2.

SEASON LEADERS:

Tight ends: Washington 82, Kratzenstein 82, Garrett 27.

Split ends: Bahe 50, Gregory 44, Hughes 9, Bostick 9.

Wingbacks: Turner 51, Bell 50, Dowse 15. ■

NOTES & QUOTES

Saturday's victory gave Nebraska an 8-2 advantage in the 10-game series with Oregon State, dating back to a 17-7 NU win in 1916. The Huskers are 20-14-3 all-time versus Pac-10 schools.

Saturday marked the 200th game for Osborne as Nebraska's head football coach. He is the first Big Eight Conference coach to reach that milestone all at one school, after surpassing the old league mark of 192 games by Oklahoma's Bennie Owen (1905-26) with last year's Iowa State game.

Oregon State coach Dave Kragthorpe: "I think we could have been in the lead at halftime had we played well. We had opportunities. Had we not had penalties, we could have had a good first half. Instead, we kind of slugged along. The second half we did some things better. We still made mistakes.

"Nebraska's a very sound football team. They won't beat themselves. I think they played very steadily. They have a very active defense."

Sophomore split end Jon Bostick became the second Husker in two weeks to come out of an apparent redshirt year. Quarterback Mike Grant played for the first time in 1989 against Minnesota.

Playing in his first NU varsity game Saturday, Bostick caught one pass for a 60-yard touchdown.

Nebraska wingback Richard Bell said of Bostick, "He's a natural."

The OSU-NU game was being televised back in Oregon and Bostick said he did not know whether or not his mother could watch the game. She might not want to, he said, because she graduated from the University of Oklahoma.

Bell answered a reporter's question on how he felt to be compared to former Husker great, Roger Craig, now a member of the NFL San Francisco 49ers.

"It's a treat for it to be said you're like somebody who's of a caliber of Roger Craig. I'm still Richard Bell and all I can do is what I do on the field."

On the cover: Linebacker Randall Jobman. Cover photo by John Bills, using a 400 mm/2.8 Canon lens; Canon F-1 body; Ektar 125 print film at f/5.6 at 1/1,000 of a second. Custom printing of Oregon State game by Photo Factory of Lincoln. ■

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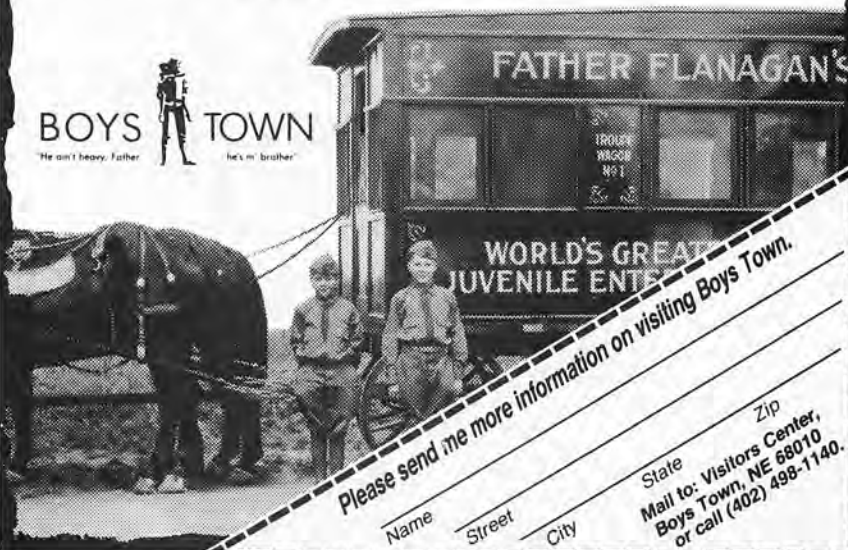


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STATE OF THE HUSKERS

By Mike Babcock

If You Can't Say Anything Nice...

You wouldn't have guessed, from his post-game comments, that Nick Schichtle was Oregon State's quarterback.

Either that or an afternoon of being harassed and sacked by Nebraska's defense impaired his judgment.

"We'd love to play their secondary again next week and the week after," Schichtle said following the Beavers' 35-7 loss to Nebraska.

"They don't see the pass enough to where, I think, they really do us any harm. We get some protection and stay out of the long-yardage situations, we would love to play them every week."

You'd have to conclude Schichtle isn't easily intimidated, either that or his remarks were based on the obvious fact he won't have to deal with the Cornhusker defense again.

Nebraska plays Oregon State again next season in Lincoln. But Schichtle is a senior. He won't be around to back up those words, to pay the price.

Even though he wouldn't admit it, Schichtle paid a price last Saturday afternoon. Consider a three-down sequence early in the fourth quarter.

Oregon State had just picked up two first downs to the Cornhusker 48.

On first down, Nebraska outside linebacker Jeff Mills crashed in, hitting Schichtle shoulder high and knocking him for a 5-yard loss. The impact of the hit was such that Schichtle lost the ball. OSU recovered.

On second down from his own 47, Schichtle dropped back to pass, only to be leveled by redshirt freshman outside linebacker Travis Hill. The loss was 10.

On third-and-25, Schichtle dropped back, only to be tackled by noseguard Pat Engelbert for a 9-yard loss.

Three plays. Twenty-four yards lost. Yet Schichtle didn't seem to be impressed. "He sat back there quite a bit," said Engelbert, a redshirt sophomore from Columbus, Neb.

"I thought maybe we'd scare him after a couple of sacks. But I guess not."

All told, OSU quarterbacks were sacked 11 times for 89 yards in losses.



Gerry Gdowski avoids an OSU tackler.

Still, Schichtle refused to give the Black Shirts credit.

"It's safe to say they're used to the run, and they like to come and make the big hit," Schichtle said of the Cornhuskers' secondary.

"They're good at that."

What he failed to acknowledge was, the secondary played an important role in the success of the pass rush.

"Our defensive backs did a tremendous job of covering their receivers," said Engelbert, who got to Schichtle twice for 18 yards in losses. "When we have a couple of extra seconds, we're going to get a sack once in a while."

Nebraska's secondary did more than contain receivers. It intercepted two passes and broke up six others. The Beavers passed for 264 yards but were able to complete less than 50 percent.

"If you go through a game like this and don't give up any long passes, you'll start thinking you're really good," said Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride.

The Cornhusker defense might not be at that point yet. But it appears to be headed in the right direction.

Against Oregon State, Nebraska's defense showed again it can adjust. Going into the game, "we thought they'd be more of a running team," McBride

said. "But they just kind of abandoned it (the run)."

And with good reason.

Oregon State finished with a net loss of 36 yards rushing. Even if you attribute the 89 yards lost in sacks to the Beavers' passing game, they managed only 53 yards rushing.

Schichtle was right about one thing. The Cornhuskers can play the run.

Each week they've gotten better, allowing the Northern Illinois Wishbone 130 yards on 50 carries; pass-oriented Utah 105 yards on 31 carries; and Minnesota, with star tailback Darrell Thompson, 58 yards on 34 carries.

When Nebraska lines up against the best in the Big Eight — Colorado and Oklahoma — the Cornhuskers will have to be able to stop the run.

Nebraska's defensive play against Oregon State was solid. McBride was satisfied with the effort.

The Cornhuskers showed once again a defensive versatility that should serve them well as they defend their conference championship.

Defensively, Nebraska has the best group of athletes it's had "in a long time," according to McBride, who's in his 13th season with the Cornhuskers.

And Nebraska's overall speed on defense "is probably the best since I've

been here," he said.

The Cornhusker defense has some inexperienced players in key positions, and as a result, "there are enough mistakes to keep you concerned."

But those same young players have enabled McBride to make situational substitutions, giving Nebraska two defensive teams, one to stop the run and the other to deal with the pass.

Several players are involved in both. For example, tackle Kent Wells is "a major factor against the run or the pass."

Wells has the size — 6-5, 280 — and strength to "overpower people," said McBride. "And he's got the moves to finesse (pass blockers). He's just getting started as a pass rusher."

However, Wells missed the Oregon State game with a knee injury that could sideline him for several games.

Junior tackle Kenny Walker, on the other hand, is used primarily in apparent passing situations. He sacked Schichtle once for a 7-yard loss.

"When Kenny learns some different moves and countermoves, he'll have the potential for a sack every time," said McBride. "He just needs to learn how to use his hands better."

In Wells' absence, some of the younger players had to take more responsibility in the Oregon State game, McBride said. Le Andre Anderson, a junior tackle from Chicago, got the first start of his varsity career against the Beavers and responded by sacking Schichtle twice for 17 yards in losses.

Junior Joe Sims and redshirt sophomore Brian Brown are also starting to establish themselves at tackle, alongside seniors Mike Murray, a nose guard whose strength is the run, and tackle Ray Valladao, a "dime" teamer.

A key to this year's defense, though, is outside linebacker, where "we've really got depth," said McBride.

Junior Mike Croel, who had a team-high eight tackles, including two sacks for 15 yards in losses; Mills, Hill and

David White, another redshirt freshman, all have speed.

And "when you've got good speed outside, that opens it up for the inside guys," said McBride.

Regardless of Schichtle's assessment, Nebraska finished the non-conference portion of its schedule undefeated. And that's the most important thing.

Now, it's on to Big Eight Conference play and defense of the championship, in a bruising league where the teams that win the most are the ones that run the most.

Oregon State coach Dave Kragthorpe, like his quarterback, wasn't lavish in his praise of the Cornhuskers. If they were in the Pac-10, "they would compare favorably, but not necessarily overwhelmingly so," he said.

That from a coach who's seen his quarterbacks sacked 26 times in four games. And his No. 1 quarterback wouldn't mind playing Nebraska again?

You figure that out. ■



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STATISTICS

GAME BY GAME PASSING STATISTICS

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
Dunlap, QB	0-0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0-0	DNP	0-0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0-0
Gdowski, QB	8-6-1-83-1	6-3-0-27-0	15-10-0-180-1	14-5-0-110-1								43-24-1-400-
Grant, QB	DNP	DNP	3-2-0-34-0	1-1-0-9-1								4-3-0-43-1
Haase, QB	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP								
Joseph, QB	5-2-0-19-1	DNP	1-1-0-21-0	2-0-0-0-0								8-3-0-40-1
McCant, QB	0-0-0-0-0	1-0-1-0-0	DNP	DNP								1-0-1-0-0

LEGEND: Attempts-Completions-Interceptions-Yardage-TD

GAME BY GAME RUSHING STATISTICS

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
Baldwin, IB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Bell, WB	2-39-0-33	4-38-0-18	1-0-0-0	5-82-0-48								12-159-0-48
Bobolz, WB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Carpenter, FB	2-11-0-11	5-102-1-29	5-21-0-7	2-10-1-8								14-144-2-29
Clark, IB	14-168-0-47	22-130-1-22	18-100-2-16	20-59-1-6								74-457-4-47
Devall, WB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Dowse, WB	1-10-1-10	DNP	2-10-1-7	0-0-0-0								3-20-2-10
Dunlap, QB	1-(4)-0-0	1-1-0-1	DNP	0-0-0-0								2-(3)-0-1
Flowers, IB	11-65-2-14	5-21-0-15	8-46-2-37	3-20-0-12								27-152-4-37
Gdowski, QB	5-74-0-36	15-98-3-19	7-36-0-20	12-47-1-16								39-255-4-36
Grant, QB	DNP	DNP	4-32-0-16	3-28-0-21								7-60-0-21
Haase, QB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Hughes, WB	1-(1)-0-0	1-(2)-0-(2)	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0								2-(3)-0-(2)
Johnk, FB		0-0-0-0	1-6-0-6	0-0-0-0								1-6-0-6
Joseph, QB	5-14-0-17	DNP	1-0-0-0	3-32-0-15								9-46-0-17
Kleldosty, FB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
McCant, QB	1-53-0-53	0-0-0-0	DNP	DNP								1-53-0-53
McDuffy, IB	1-1-0-1	0-0-0-0	5-18-0-7	0-0-0-0								1-1-0-0
Prater, WB		0-0-0-0	DNP	0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0
Rodgers, IB	INJ	INJ	INJ	4-5-0-9								4-5-0-9
Schmidt, FB	1-4-0-4	3-10-0-5	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0								4-14-0-5
Soto, FB	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP								
Turner, WB	2-21-0-14	3-34-0-23	3-26-0-14	0-0-0-0								8-81-0-23
L. White, IB		DNP	DNP	3-(5)-0-8								3-(5)-0-8

LEGEND: Attempts-Yardage-TD-Long

GAME BY GAME RECEIVING STATISTICS

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
Bahe, SE	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0
Baumert, SE		0-0-0-0	DNP	DNP								0-0-0-0
Bell, WB	1-7-0-7	1-2-0-2	5-121-1-34	1-16-0-16								8-146-1-34
Bobolz, WB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Boatlick, SE	DNP	DNP	DNP	1-60-1-60								1-60-1-60
D'Alesio, TE		DNP	DNP	0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0
Devall, WB		DNP	DNP	0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0
Dowse, WB	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	1-9-1-9								1-9-1-9
Garrett, TE	1-12-1-12	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	1-11-0-11								2-23-1-12
Gregory, SE	3-41-0-12	2-25-0-17	1-5-0-5	0-0-0-0								6-71-0-29
Hughes, WB	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0
Kratzenstein, TE	2-39-1-28	0-0-0-0	2-20-0-12	0-0-0-0								4-59-1-28
Langemeier, TE		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Leise, TE	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	DNP	DNP								0-0-0-0
Liska, TE		DNP	DNP	DNP								
McCoy, SE		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Parrella, TE		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Prater, WB	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	DNP	0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0
Turner, WB	1-3-0-3	0-0-0-0	5-89-0-26	1-9-0-9								9-101-0-26
Washington, TE	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0	0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0
L. White, IB		DNP	DNP	0-0-0-0								0-0-0-0

LEGEND: Catches-Yardage-TD-Longest

GAME BY GAME DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
E. Anderson, CB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
L. Anderson, DT	2-0-2; 0-0	DNP	1-1-2; 1-8	2-0-2; 2-17								5-1-6; 3-25
Brown, DT	2-0-2; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	DNP	0-0-0; 0-0								2-0-2; 0-0
Brungardt, DT		0-0-0; 0-0	3-0-3; 1-1	0-0-0; 0-0								3-0-3; 1-1
Byrd, FS	0-1-1; 0-0	3-1-4; 0-0	3-0-3; 0-0	3-0-3; 0-0								9-2-11; 0-0
Callendo, LB	1-3-4; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	2-0-2; 2-7								3-3-6; 2-7
Camp, LB		DNP	DNP	DNP								

GAME BY GAME DEFENSIVE STATISTICS, cont.

	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA	TOTAL
Carmer, FS		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Cooper, SS	4-1-5; 2-5	8-2-10; 1-2	1-1-2; 0-0	4-0-4; 0-0								17-4-21; 3-7
Cotton, SS	2-0-2; 1-18	2-1-3; 0-0	0-2-2; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0								5-3-8; 1-18
Crippen, CB		0-0-0; 0-0	4-0-4; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0								4-0-4; 0-0
Croel, LB	2-1-3; 2-9	3-1-4; 0-0	5-1-8; 2-6	6-2-8; 2-15								16-5-21; 6-30
Duin, SS	DNP	DNP	DNP	DNP								
Edgren, NG		DNP	0-1-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0								
Engelbert, NG	2-2-4; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	4-2-6; 2-18								7-4-11; 2-18
Goff, CB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Hagge, LB	2-1-3; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0								3-1-4; 0-0
Hicks, CB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Hill, LB	5-0-5; 2-6	2-0-2; 1-3	1-0-1; 0-0	2-0-2; 1-10								10-0-10; 4-19
Jobman, LB	1-0-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	0-2-2; 0-0	0-1-1; 0-0								1-3-4; 0-0
Krantz, LB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Kurtz, LB		1-0-1; 0-0	DNP	0-0-0; 0-0								1-0-1; 0-0
Legette, CB		0-0-0; 0-0	2-0-2; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0								2-0-2; 0-0
T. Lewis, CB	1-0-1; 0-0	4-1-5; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0	4-1-5; 0-0								10-2-12; 0-0
Miller, DT		DNP	0-0-0; 0-0	DNP								
Mills, LB	2-1-3; 0-0	2-0-2; 1-1	4-1-5; 2-11	2-0-2; 1-5								10-2-12; 4-17
Mohnsen, LB	1-0-1; 0-0	DNP	DNP	0-0-0; 0-0								1-0-1; 0-0
Monarrez, NG		DNP	DNP	0-0-0; 0-0								
Murray, NG	2-1-3; 1-4	0-0-0; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0								3-1-4; 1-4
Olson, FS	1-0-1; 0-0	DNP	DNP	DNP								1-0-1; 0-0
Petko, LB	5-1-6; 0-0	2-0-2; 0-0	2-1-3; 0-0	2-0-2; 0-0								11-2-13; 0-0
Pickens, CB	2-0-2; 0-0	5-1-6; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0	2-1-3; 0-0								10-2-12; 0-0
Reece, DB	2-1-3; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0	1-0-1; 1-7								4-1-5; 1-7
Sanders, FS	3-1-4; 0-0	2-1-3; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	2-0-2; 0-0								7-2-9; 0-0
Sims, DT	3-1-4; 1-2	3-0-3; 1-12	2-0-2; 1-7	0-1-1; 0-0								8-2-10; 2-14
Spitzenberger, LB		DNP	DNP	DNP								
Svehla, LB		0-0-0; 0-0	0-1-1; 0-0	DNP								0-1-1; 0-0
Thomas, FS	1-0-1; 0-0	0-0-0; 0-0	DNP	1-0-1; 0-0								2-0-2; 0-0
Tyrance, LB	7-3-10; 1-4	6-3-9; 0-0	4-1-5; 1-2	4-3-7; 0-0								21-10-31; 2-6
Valladao, DT	2-1-3; 0-0	2-1-3; 1-5	DNP	0-1-1; 1-10								4-3-7; 2-15
Walker, DT		1-1-2; 1-2	1-0-1; 0-0	1-0-1; 1-7								3-1-4; 2-9
Wells, DT	1-0-1; 0-0	3-0-3; 3-21	1-0-1; 0-0	DNP								5-0-5; 3-21
Wendland, LB		0-0-0; 0-0	DNP	DNP								0-0-0; 0-0
D. White, LB		2-0-2; 0-0	4-2-6; 0-0	1-0-1; 0-0								7-2-9; 0-0
F. White, SS		1-0-1; 0-0	DNP	1-0-1; 0-0								2-0-2; 0-0
Zacharais, LB	1-0-1; 0-0	DNP	DNP	0-0-0; 0-0								1-0-1; 0-0

Legend: Unassisted Tackles-Assisted Tackles-Total Tackles; Tackles for Loss-Yardage Lost

NEBRASKA GAME-BY-GAME STARTERS

OFFENSE	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA
SE	Gregory	Gregory	Gregory	Gregory							
LT	Punt	Punt	Punt	Punt							
LG	Wanek	Wanek	Wanek	Wanek							
C	Young	Young	Young	Young							
RG	Roschal	Bobbora	Bobbora	Bobbora							
RT	Glaser	Wiegert	Engstrom	Wiegert							
TE	Kratzenstein	Kratzenstein	Kratzenstein	Kratzenstein							
QB	Gdowski	Gdowski	Gdowski	Gdowski							
FB	Carpenter	Carpenter	Carpenter	Carpenter							
IB	Clark	Clark	Clark	Clark							
WB	Bell	Bell	Bell	Bell							
DEFENSE	NO. ILLINOIS	UTAH	MINNESOTA	OREGON ST.	KANSAS ST.	MISSOURI	OKLA. STATE	IOWA STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS	OKLAHOMA
OLB	Mills	Mills	Mills	Mills							
LT	Sims	Sims	Sims	Sims							
NG	Murray	Murray	Murray	Murray							
RT	Wells	Wells	Wells	L. Anderson							
OLB	Croel	Croel	Croel	Croel							
SLB	Jobman	Petko	Petko	Petko							
WLB	Tyrance	Tyrance	Tyrance	Tyrance							
LCB	Pickens	Pickens	Pickens	Pickens							
RCB	Lewis	Lewis	Lewis	Lewis							
SS	Cooper	Cooper	Cooper	Cooper							
FS	Sanders	Sanders	Sanders	Sanders							

Please note that statistics for the most recent game are compiled in the press box. However, changes may be made throughout the season to reflect official coaches' evaluations after grading film.

Wildcats Destined for New Losing Streak

Jeff Shearer, KDUH-TV, Scotts-bluff, Neb.: "This is a game that the fifth-string players live for because they will see a lot of action. If you want to talk about a mismatch, this is it. One of the best teams in the country (at home) going against what could be the worst team in Division I-A. The only thing that will keep the Huskers from scoring in triple figures is Coach Osborne's sense of compassion."

"This type of game could be great for morale because the Huskers could set a record for the most players ever used in a game. **I'll say Nebraska 59, Kansas State 6.** But what will happen when the soon-to-be 5-0 Huskers play a real team?"

Brad Fuqua, Grand Island Independent, Grand Island, Neb.: "Kansas State broke its 30-game winless streak. But a new streak will start Saturday against Nebraska. Nevertheless, Kansas State made a good move when it hired Bill Snyder as head coach this season. Snyder knows his Wildcats have problems. His first task is to improve the Wildcat passing game."

"The Wildcats returned almost everybody on defense from last year. The problem is that that defense ranked almost last in Division I-A."

"Nebraska may try to get Mike Grant into the game more this week. The quarterback situation gained new life two weeks ago when Grant went in against

Minnesota. Also, the Husker defense has come to life. The bottom line this week is another big victory for the Huskers. **I'll go with Nebraska 56, Kansas State 7.**"

Jon Ryan, Columbus Telegram, Columbus, Neb.: "Just like death and taxes, a Nebraska win over K-State can be counted on with great certainty. The Wildcats, holders of a NCAA-record losing streak, can expect nothing except a new, unwanted streak to begin in Lincoln."

"K-State's offense has shown some ability to score as of late and will probably come into the game with a nothing-to-lose approach. That will probably mean a no-holds-barred attack that will include a lot of passing. The Black Shirts have already encountered offensive schemes of every type this season and have blossomed into a solid unit. The Husker offense has improved in every game this year and should keep the Cats on their heels. NU's advantage over Kansas State may not last forever, but in the foreseeable future, it's sure to endure. **My prediction is 56-13, Nebraska.**"

John Martinez, North Platte Telegraph, North Platte, Neb.: "After struggling through its first two games, Nebraska is now playing up to its full potential and proving that it deserves a high national ranking."

"Taking Grant off of the redshirt list

will help keep the Big Red machine going full steam all season. The game is the Big Eight opener and that will be incentive enough for the Huskers to go all out from start to finish. Kansas State just doesn't have the manpower to keep up with Nebraska. **I'll say Nebraska 55, Kansas State 3.**"

Chuck Green, Daily Nebraskan, Lincoln, Neb.: "What can be said about Nebraska's weakest opponent of the year? About the only thing keeping Kansas State out of the conference cellar is seven more weeks."

"Nebraska has come together into a good, solid team, but whether the Huskers can win the national championship this year is another issue entirely. Nebraska's biggest problem right now is injuries, but that shouldn't stop the Huskers from scoring at will on Saturday. K-State's biggest problem is that they are Kansas State, and they will be lucky to win two or three games this year."

"Nebraska should have this one wrapped up after its first or second drive and should have a pretty big lead by halftime. **I'll say Nebraska will win 69-9.** K-State may get close enough for a couple of field goals late in the game, but that's about it. Anyone who can sell their tickets for this one should do it, but I don't think anybody will be crazy enough to buy them."

Mike Fuehrer, Norfolk Daily News,



Shearer



Fuqua



Green



Martinez



Ryan

Norfolk, Neb.: "Basically, this game shouldn't even be played. Kansas State can't possibly win this game. Nebraska has found a more efficient defense to go with a quality offensive attack. Nebraska's quarterback situation has turned out for the best, thanks to Gerry Gdowski, but the position was strengthened even more by the addition of Grant. That gives the Huskers three quality quarterbacks.

"Unfortunately for the Wildcats, they're just plain terrible. I'll say **Nebraska 63, Kansas State 0**. This will be a good chance for some other Husker players to get some game experience."

Roger Stanton, Football News, Detroit, Mich.: "I was a little surprised that Nebraska handled Minnesota as easily as they did, but I wasn't totally surprised. After all, the Cornhuskers are our choice to win the national championship.

"I know Tom Osborne had no idea the schedule would turn out this way when



Stanton

it was made several years ago, but if there was ever a schedule that put a team on track to win the national title, Nebraska has it this year. Nebraska simply has so much time to learn from its mistakes without really being in a position to lose. Kansas State this week is a perfect example.

"I've been in this business a long time, and my memory is not the greatest, but I honestly can't remember the last time Kansas State beat Nebraska. I'll say **the Huskers will win 49-7**.

"How does the Big Eight stack up now? They've got three decent teams out of eight, which is pretty good. It's not been disproven that the Southeastern Conference is the best conference in America. But I'd say the Big Eight is bunched up there with the other conferences.

"The Big Ten is down and the Pac-10 is down. They both have more teams than the Big Eight, but that just means they have more weak sisters." ■



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Kansas State Wildcats

A lot has changed at Kansas State since last season, when the Wildcats suffered through their sixth consecutive losing record and their 17th in the last 18 seasons. Kansas State has a new head coach — former Iowa offensive coordinator Bill Snyder — a new logo, new uniforms and, according to Snyder, a new attitude.

What Kansas State doesn't have, however, is many victories.

Some things never seem to change.

The Wildcats were last in the Big Eight in rushing and 96th in the nation in scoring offense a year ago. And little has changed there.

They did lead the conference in passing in 1988, however, and that's changed. During non-conference play they haven't been quite as effective through the air as they were last season. One reason for that is Greg Washington, who ranked seventh in the nation in pass receiving last season, was lost to academic problems prior to the beginning of fall camp.

The Wildcats weren't left without receivers, though. Michael Smith, a 5-9, 160-pound sophomore flanker, has been one of the busiest in non-conference play, with 6-4, 235-pound tight end Alan Friedrich also a favorite target of quarterbacks Carl Straw and Chris Cobb, both juniors, and Paul Watson, a highly regarded sophomore.

Straw, the starter a year ago, completed 14 of 34 passes for 137 yards against Nebraska last season. The Cornhuskers intercepted him twice.

Pat Jackson, whom Nebraska fans will remember as a Wishbone quarterback at Waldorf (Iowa) Community College for two seasons, has established himself as an offensive threat at running back or wide receiver. In the Wildcats' 37-20 loss to Northern Illinois, a team Nebraska defeated 48-17, Jackson rushed 12 times for 65 yards and one touchdown, caught three passes for 33 yards and threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to Smith. Jackson missed one game because of a quadricep injury.

Smith caught nine passes for 85 yards in the Northern Illinois game.



Carl Straw

One of the few things not new at Kansas State this season is the offensive line, which is built around four returning starters: guards Eric Zabelin (6-2, 265) and Chad Faulkner (6-2, 270), tackle Will McCain (6-5, 275), who's from Omaha, and center Paul Yniquez (6-3, 265), all seniors.

Defensively, the Wildcats appear to have improved some since last season, though they had plenty of room for improvement, finishing 103rd in the NCAA total defense statistics.

They're strongest in the secondary, with all four starters from last year back, including strong safety Erick Harper, free safety Marcus Miller and cornerbacks Tyreese Herds and William Price, a sophomore who was credited with 15 tackles, including two for losses, in last season's 48-3 loss to Nebraska in Manhattan.

Miller received all-conference honorable mention last fall.

In addition, junior Danny Needham, a starter at outside linebacker as a sophomore, has been moved to free safety.

The defense was hurt by the loss of veteran linebacker Lorne Whittle to injury. Inside linebacker Brooks Barta, a 6-0, 200-pound redshirted freshman, has been one of the Wildcats' busiest defenders. So has Maurice Henry, a

second-team all-conference pick by the coaches last season who has moved from linebacker to defensive end.

After his team's loss to Northern Illinois, Snyder said the Wildcats had "made some improvement in some areas, but we lack consistency and continuity." So what else is new?

Strengths: Receivers, offensive line and secondary.

Weaknesses: Depth and defense.

Key Matchups: Kansas State's defense against Cornhusker I-back Ken Clark, who rushed for 225 yards and one touchdown against the Wildcats last season. Nebraska's secondary against the Wildcats' receivers.

Statistically: Clark continues to move up on Nebraska's all-time rushing list. Straw ranks in Kansas State's top 10 in career passing.

Players to Watch: Smith, Jackson, Henry, Miller and Barta.

Last Week: Kansas State beat North Texas State in Manhattan, Kan., 20-17.

Next Week: Kansas State plays its second Big Eight game against Oklahoma State in Stillwater. ■

Nebraska vs. Kansas State

When: Saturday, Oct. 7, 1:30 p.m.

Where: Memorial Stadium, Lincoln.

Media Coverage: Live broadcast on the Nebraska Football Network.

Wildcat Facts: Coach — Bill Snyder, 47, is in his first season as head coach. School colors — Purple and White. Nickname — Wildcats. Enrollment — 19,301. Conference — Big Eight. Basic Offense — Multiple. Basic Defense — 5-2.

The Series: Nebraska leads 61-10-2. The Cornhuskers have won 20 in a row from Kansas State and haven't allowed the Wildcats a touchdown since a 62-14 victory at Memorial Stadium in 1984. Kansas State has scored just nine points, total, in the last four games.

Big Plays Missing

Coach Tom Osborne: "I'm glad that's over with. I thought the defense played a decent football game. Offensively, I'm not happy with our play.

"They (OSU) do have some good people up front. We knew they had a couple of their linebackers back. They have a fairly experienced football team.

"At times, we didn't execute. We had a lot of second-and-eights today; that's not our style.

"I thought the wind was a big factor today, probably more so than in any game we've played so far this year. When we were going into it, unless we generated a good drive, we would have poor field position.

"I told Mike (Grant) and Mickey (Joseph) yesterday that they'd alternate. I would have liked to play them both more today but we just didn't get enough breathing room.

"After the first quarter, I felt Gerry Gdowski had a pretty good idea what was happening. We were getting in the right play, we just didn't block that well.

"After last week's game, today's was a very complete game. Everybody probably felt pretty good about themselves. I thought we'd get a great effort out of Oregon State because they didn't have a very good game last week. I was afraid if we didn't play well today, we might get beat.

"I'm not too disappointed in the way it ended up, but it took awhile to get started. I thought we were sporadic. If we'd have made three or four more big plays, I would have been happy.

"We got pretty good pressure. We substituted quite a bit in the dime. They at times had given up a lot of quarterback sacks in other games. Along about the second and third quarter, they protected him well. Even when we did blitz, a few times he had four or five seconds to throw."

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride: "When Kenny Walker learns some different moves, he's going to be dangerous. He has the potential to sack every time. He has to use his hands better. That's coming.

"A couple of times we had misalignments. That's going to happen. The

young guys did a much better job.

"I wasn't overly impressed with our tackling today. We've got to do better.

"We were a little inconsistent in the first half. We played well, played bad, then played well. We didn't keep the heat on them.

"We shut (OSU's running) down right away. I think they figured the heck with

this. The last half, we were in (dime) on first down. We said the heck with the run. They had to catch up."

Offensive line coach Milt Tenopir: "The kids probably blocked it as well as they can block it. They (OSU) limit what you can actually run at them, but at the same time you can beat them with it, too. When they stood around, we blocked them well.

"Minnesota did the same thing. They gave us twists, but not as much as this team did." ■

CORNHUSKER 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

SE	19	Morgan Gregory	5-11	190	sr.
	81	Chip Bahe	5-9	170	sr.
LT	78	Tom Punt	6-8	285	jr.
	76	Brian Boerboom	6-7	285	so.
LG	66	Jim Wanek	6-1	255	jr.
	74	Will Shields	6-2	245	fr.
C	68	Jake Young	6-4	270	sr.
	58	David Edeal	6-2	285	jr.
RG	69	Bill Bobbora	6-3	265	sr.
	64	John Roschal	6-3	280	sr.
RT	61	Erik Wiegert	6-4	270	so.
	63	Steve Engstrom	6-3	285	jr.
TE	85	Monte Kratzenstein	6-3	230	sr.
	89	William Washington	6-2	245	fr.
QB	14	Gerry Gdowski	6-0	190	sr.
	2	Mickey Joseph	5-11	175	so.
FB	29	Bryan Carpenter	5-10	205	jr.
	25	Sam Schmidt	6-1	225	sr.
IB	32	Ken Clark	5-10	200	sr.
	23	Leodis Flowers	5-11	200	so.
WB	21	Richard Bell	6-0	205	sr.
	22	Nate Turner	6-2	220	so.
K	44	Gregg Barrios	5-8	180	jr.

DEFENSE

OLB	42	Jeff Mills	6-4	235	sr.
	93	Travis Hill	6-2	230	fr.
LT	56	Joe Sims	6-3	285	jr.
	75	Paul Brungardt	6-7	265	jr.
NG	74	Mike Murray	5-10	240	sr.
	97	Pat Engelbert	6-2	245	so.
RT	91	Kent Wells	6-5	280	sr.
	90	LeAndre Anderson	6-4	245	jr.
OLB	88	Mike Croel	6-3	225	jr.
	96	David White	6-2	225	fr.
SLB	37	Mike Petko	6-2	225	so.
	55	Randall Jobman	6-3	235	sr.
WLB	40	Pat Tyrance	6-2	240	jr.
	49	Chris Caliendo	6-2	240	sr.
LCB	38	Bruce Pickens	5-11	190	jr.
	45	Jon Crippen	5-10	170	jr.
RCB	5	Tahaun Lewis	5-11	175	jr.
	3	Tyrone Legette	5-9	170	so.
SS	17	Reggie Cooper	6-3	205	jr.
	24	Curtis Cotton	6-1	195	so.
FS	26	Marvin Sanders	5-11	190	sr.
	8	Tyrone Byrd	5-11	170	fr.
P	47	Mike Stigge	6-1	190	fr.

WILDCAT 2-DEEP

OFFENSE

FL	88	Michael Smith	5-9	160	so.
	3	Pat Jackson	5-9	175	jr.
LT	75	Toby Lawrence	6-5	275	fr.
	79	Doug Warren	6-5	280	so.
LG	70	Chad Faulkner	6-2	270	sr.
	69	Josh Kolb	6-4	250	fr.
C	68	Paul Yniquez	6-3	265	sr.
	61	Eric Herrick	6-3	260	fr.
RG	68	Shawn Fleming	6-4	265	jr.
	76	Eric Zabelin	6-2	265	sr.
RT	79	Doug Warren	6-4	280	so.
	77	Mike Orr	6-6	250	fr.
TE	84	Alan Friedrich	6-4	235	sr.
	90	Al Jones	6-4	215	so.
QB	10	Carl Straw	6-2	205	jr.
	9	Chris Cobb	6-4	190	jr.
RB	42	Richard Boyd	5-6	190	jr.
	22	Antoine Dulan	6-1	180	jr.
FB	38	Sonny Ray Jones	5-11	190	so.
	40	Curtis Madden	5-11	225	so.
SE	83	Frank Hernandez	6-0	185	sr.
	87	David Brooks	6-0	160	so.
K	17	David Kruger	5-11	195	sr.

DEFENSE

LE	28	Maurice Henry	6-0	220	sr.
	72	Ramon Davenport	6-2	215	jr.
LT	92	Anthony Williams	6-4	250	jr.
	98	Tony Williams	6-5	275	fr.
NT	55	Ekwensi Griffith	6-0	265	fr.
	57	Brett Weis	6-1	235	fr.
RT	81	John Crawford	6-2	255	sr.
	97	Robert Hubbell	6-3	240	fr.
RE	89	Elijah Alexander	6-2	215	so.
	53	Reggie Blackwell	6-2	205	fr.
ILB	36	James Enin Okut	6-0	230	jr.
	26	Jeff Lowe	6-0	220	sr.
ILB	44	Chris Patterson	6-3	235	fr.
	44	Brooks Barta	6-0	200	fr.
LCB	7	Tyrese Herds	5-11	205	sr.
	33	Rogerick Green	6-0	180	so.
FS	21	Danny Needham	6-1	205	jr.
	32	C.J. Masters	6-0	200	fr.
SS	6	Erick Harper	6-1	215	sr.
	24	Greg Patterson	6-2	190	fr.
RCB	20	Dimitrie Scott	5-11	175	sr.
	33	Rogerick Green	6-0	180	so.
P	9	Chris Cobb	6-4	190	jr.

Nebraska offensive tackle Steve Engstrom of Lincoln Pius X had his first starting role in a year when he subbed (at Minnesota) for Erik Wiegert, who subbed for Doug Glaser a week ago. He said his only problem was one particular block on a reverse handoff to wingback Nate Turner in the second quarter.

Engstrom completely decked Minnesota defensive tackle Bob Coughlin on the play and the crowd groaned at the ferocity of the block.

"I just waited for him (Coughlin) to turn around so I wouldn't get called for clipping and I went for his ankles and he went down," he said.

"The bad part was when I went to the huddle I could see the play on the big screen instant replay and I said, 'hey, there's my block.'"

"Gerry Gdowski (NU quarterback) got mad when I pointed to the screen and told me to get back to work," Engstrom said. "I did, but it was fun to hear the crowd groan again on the replay."

Nebraska reserve linebacker Mike Hagge has earned a reputation as one of the hardest-hitting players on the team. But the story behind the man is growing.

"He's ruthless. He's crazy," Nebraska safety Will Thomas said of Hagge. "Pain doesn't seem to bother him. Sometimes, I think he likes it," Nebraska reserve linebacker Alvin Banks added.

Hagge said he just enjoys playing hard. "I've got to do something to make up for my lack of size," he said.

NU coach Tom Osborne said he is happy with the turnaround in punt returns. After the first two games Nebraska was listed as 97th in the country in punt returns. After the Minnesota game, and a number of successful punt returns by Richard Bell, and one by Reggie Cooper on a mistake, the Huskers jumped to 57th in the country.

"We're getting better blocking and we're holding them up at the line of the punt better," Bell said.

Nebraska's punting also appears to be in good hands with sophomore walkon Mike Stigge. "He gets the punt off in 1.9 to 2.0 seconds and that means we can get everybody out and downfield without having to worry about the punt block," Tom Osborne said.



Ken Clark

Nebraska punting, under John Kroeker for the last three years, finished No. 9 in the nation last year. Already this year, Stigge has NU at that No. 9 position.

Nebraska has benefitted from a balanced attack so far. The Huskers had 530 yards of total offense against Minnesota — 295 on the ground and 235 in the air.

"We want to keep it balanced and we want to keep the passing efficiency up there," NU quarterback Gerry Gdowski said.

The Cornhuskers hope to see more of the "regular" offense this year, according to NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. "We had one of our best days playing Minnesota. When we were playing the Wishbone of Northern Illinois one week and the passing attack of Utah the next week, it was hard to adjust and get everything in for our kids, and so many new kids. But it helped and we showed it in the Minnesota game."

NU fullback Bryan Carpenter, enjoying a great start to his senior season with a 100-yard game and 144 in four games, said he is more comfortable with the offense this year. "I have a lot of confidence in what I'm doing and what I can do," he said. "I'm a lot less nervous than I was in the past. I used to even hyperventilate in high school games and they had to take me out. It happened here a couple of times and even once this year."

"But one play, one hit, and that's all over. And for the first time, against Minnesota, I wasn't nervous at all. Well,

maybe some, but not like in the past."

One of the key reasons behind un-redshirting sophomore quarterback Mike Grant was the practice time. When Grant was a redshirt he worked with the scout teams and practiced only the plays of the upcoming opponent. Now, as No. 2 or No. 3, he'll work with the top two offensive units and he'll get daily exposure to the NU offense. "It should help for the future and for right now," Osborne said. "And when we need to move the ball 80 yards late in the game, and the No. 1 guy is out, we're going to need him."

Nebraska's recruiting has improved in recent years, but the walkons are still important. Consider that walkons Dave Edeal, Steve Engstrom, Terry Eyman, receivers Mark Dowse, Brad Devall and Chip Bahe are all among the top two units on the offense. Defensively, walkons Dan Svehla, Mike Murray, Curtis Cotton and Le Andre Anderson, plus punter Mike Stigge and kicker Gregg Barrios, were all walkons.

"I think the walkon program is still one of the differences that helps us year after year," Osborne said.

Osborne said some of the most pleasant surprises this season have been linebacker Mike Petko, defensive back Tyrone Byrd, Cotton and outside linebacker Mike Croel. Of Croel, Osborne said, "He's become a big-time player." Osborne also cited the play of Carpenter and Gdowski and said that tackle Bill Bobbora has played beyond expectations. "Steve Engstrom (tackle) has been a pleasant surprise, too." ■

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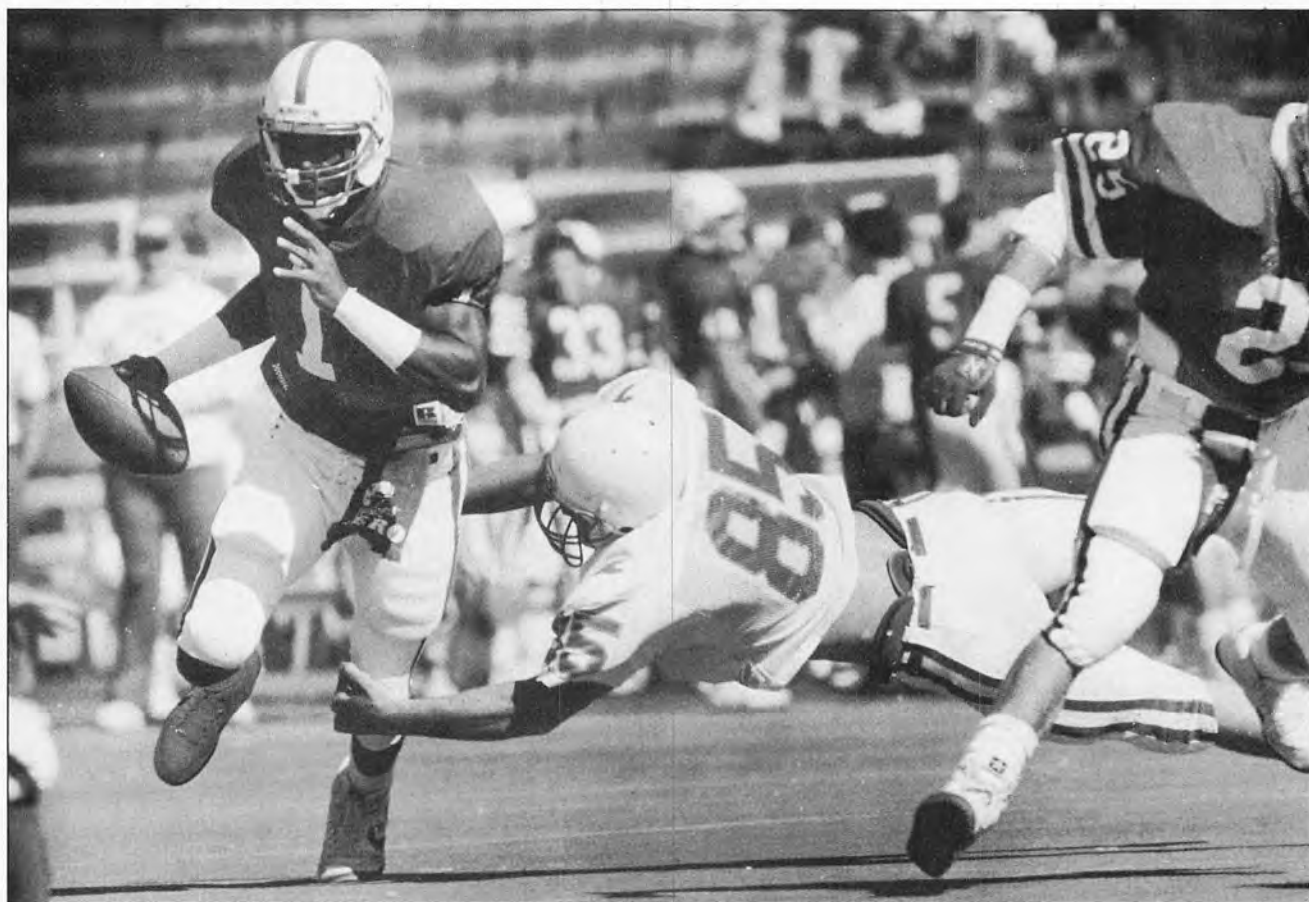
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GAME OF THE DECADE: JV STYLE

When Nebraska and Air Force tangle Oct. 6, it'll match two of the nation's top JV programs.

By Dirk Maley



It might very well be the top junior varsity football matchup in the country.

After all, the game pits an established power, Nebraska, against a definite up-and-comer, Air Force.

Both are very similar teams — both very disciplined, both very run-oriented.

And certainly, both have their share of talented football players.

Games thus far between the two JV powers have been very, very exciting, to say the least.

In 1986, Air Force surprised just about everyone by knocking off Nebras-

Grant (1) helped stop the two-game losing streak to AFA.

ka, in Lincoln nonetheless, 24-18.

Then in 1987, to prove that what happened the year before was no fluke, Air Force up and beat Nebraska a second straight time 21-19, this time in Colorado Springs, Colo.

It was the first time Nebraska lost back-to-back JV games since Missouri

beat the NU JVs 14-7 in 1965 and then 13-12 in 1966.

Nebraska's JVs, just like their varsity counterparts, aren't accustomed to losing, especially to the same team twice.

In fact, Nebraska's JVs aren't accustomed to losing, period.

That shows in Nebraska's all-time record — 114-15-1.

So, when the two teams met for a third time in 1988, it was payback time.

And my, oh, my how Nebraska paid back the Air Force.

Nebraska got its revenge, all right, and in a very big way, with a 35-16 win.

Offensively and defensively, Nebras-

ka played lights-out football.

And in the kicking game, Nebraska did A-OK as well.

Offensively for Nebraska, it was a game of big plays. I-back Scott Baldwin rushed for two touchdowns, one from 63 yards out, and another from 6 yards out, set up by a 72-yard scamper by quarterback Mike Grant.

Grant had an outstanding game for Nebraska, finishing with 83 yards rushing and 83 yards passing. He scored one touchdown, that on a quarterback sneak. The touchdown was set up just a play earlier with a 38-yard pass from Grant to receiver Brad Hays.

Defensively, Nebraska played fired-up, inspired football. Steve Carmer, Matt Hilman, Jamie Liewer and Mike Petko played superbly, helping Nebraska's defense hold Air Force to just 241 yards of total offense.

And in the kicking game, Nebraska was simply awesome. Credit that to Tyronne Legette, who returned a kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown.

Now, it's back to Colorado Springs for shootout No. 4, set for Friday, Oct. 6.

In a way, the Nebraska-Air Force game has sort of become the JV equivalent of varsity rivalries like Nebraska-Oklahoma, Notre Dame-Miami, UCLA-USC, Ohio State-Michigan, and Penn State-Pittsburgh.

It's a very big game for both schools, no doubt about it.

"It's become a good rivalry," says Shane Thorell, head coach of Nebraska's freshman/junior varsity team.

"And since Air Force beat us the first two years, it's become a challenging game."

Thorell admits, "It's a pretty big game as far as teams from different conferences playing one another.

"We're just happy to have a team like Air Force on the schedule. There aren't many good JV programs in the country, but Air Force certainly has a very fine program."

Air Force junior varsity coach Billy Mitchell says the game with Nebraska is one of his team's two biggest games of the season.

For Air Force, a game with BYU is equally important, given the two teams are members of the Western Athletic Conference (WAC).

But, according to Mitchell, BYU isn't Nebraska.

"Nebraska has one of the premier JV teams in the country," says Mitchell. "And the thing about their program that's so impressive is their extensive



NU may be the only school where the JVs do not also run the scout team.

walkon program.

"Also, even though we have about 85 men in our JV program, we still must spend half our time running the scout team. Nebraska has the luxury of breaking up into redshirt scout team players as well as JV players."

Nebraska and Air Force are certainly unique in having top-notch JV programs and top-notch varsity programs.

By getting to play as freshmen, the players are given the necessary time to hone their skills and learn the system.

The varsity then benefits when it comes time for these players to make the jump to a higher level of play.

They go in knowing what to expect

and feeling confident in their abilities.

Really, that's what the JV program is all about. It's worked well for both programs. For example, the starting tight end for the Air Force JVs in 1984 was a lanky lad named Chad Hanning, who just happened to win the Outland Trophy three years later as an Academic All-America defensive tackle. Nebraska's JV-to-stardom stories are too numerous to mention.

"The philosophy behind the program is to get these guys some game experience, plus help them learn our offense and defense," says Thorell. "That way, come spring ball, they're ready to play at the varsity level."

"I think that by playing freshman ball, our guys develop faster than players at other schools."

Some schools don't think twice about playing "true" freshmen; however, it doesn't happen often at Nebraska.

This year, for instance, only two true freshmen — offensive lineman Will Shields and defensive back John Reece — have seen significant action in varsity games.

A handful of other true freshmen are practicing with the varsity, but they'll most likely redshirt.

"If a true freshman can play and handle it, I think that's great," says Thorell. "If a player has the talent and the mental maturity to handle it — super. Some kids might indeed have the talent to play, but they may not be ready from a men-

tal standpoint. And if that's the case, then maybe a redshirt year or a year with the freshman/junior varsity program may be the best thing."

That one year with the freshman/JV team can do wonders for some players in terms of their physical and mental development.

And that's been the thought behind the program dating back to 1956, when Coach Gene Stauber led NU's first freshman/JV team to a 2-0 record, with wins over the Iowa State and Kansas State junior varsities.

That remained the thinking when John Melton, former linebackers coach for NU's varsity squad, served as head mentor of the freshman/JV team from 1962 to 1966.

According to Melton, there's quite a

difference between working with freshmen and working with older, more seasoned players.

"It's pretty tough for a freshman to go right into the varsity," says Melton, who retired from coaching last March and now serves the athletic department in a fund-raising capacity.

"Just look at how many rookies start in the National Football League. It's the same thing."

At the JV level, "you've got homesick kids and you're trying to bring them along slowly," says Melton. "Plus, you want to keep everybody healthy, plus keep everybody eligible."

"Shane has a real tough job. He really does. But he's doing a super job."

In fact, one could say the NU junior varsity head coach's position is a "super job." It has been a launching pad for several Husker assistant coaches: Melton (1962-66), Cletus Fischer (1967-68), Frank Solich (1979-82) and Dan Young (1983-85).

But why, given Nebraska's success at the varsity level, haven't more teams tried to copy Nebraska by developing freshman/JV programs?

"At other schools, the varsity practices against the freshmen," explained Melton. "The freshmen run the opposition's plays. Here, we teach the kids our system and we teach them what we expect out of them."

It really is surprising that more teams don't try to copy Nebraska's program, given the success of NU's varsity team over the past 20-some years.

After all, part of Nebraska's success at the varsity level is the direct result of the freshman/JV program.

And for that reason, varsity coach Tom Osborne will remain committed to the program.

"Coach Osborne is the type of guy who can manage a team with a few more players," says Thorell. "Some coaches get their 95 scholarship players and that's all they want to deal with."

"We're not very populated here in Nebraska and we have just a handful of scholarship players who come out of high school each year. Yet, there are some good players who can develop into scholarship-type players. And that's where the walkon program is so important."



Gerry Gdowski's only loss as a starting QB was against the '86 Air Force JVs.

According to Mitchell, "Some coaches would rather their players red-shirt than have them use up a year of eligibility (on the JV team). Plus, some programs just don't have enough people to sustain a JV program."

Because there aren't many junior varsity programs in existence, schools like Nebraska and Air Force often have a difficult time finding opponents.

BYU is the only other WAC team to play JV ball. Nebraska hasn't played a Big Eight JV team since 1984. Financial and scholarship restraints have affected Big Eight freshman games. In the 1970s, NU played 27 conference JV games, but only four in the '80s.

Air Force will play seven games this fall, compared to just five for Nebraska.

Five doesn't seem like a lot. However, back when Melton was NU's freshman coach, Nebraska never played more than four games in a season. In fact, during three of his five seasons as head fresh-

continued on page 46



One year after stuffing the AFA offense, Petko is starting for the varsity.

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A WORLD OF

By Paul Hammel



Walker and Mann are constantly together: at team meetings, in class, in the locker room, and (here) meeting the press.

For the past three years, someone has been wearing panty hose and silk blouses to the daily classroom meetings of the Nebraska Black Shirts.

And this delicate dresser has been intercepting the nuances taught by the Cornhuskers' coaches for retransmission.

A spy? And a female one at that?

Not hardly. For the past three seasons, Mimi Mann has been the chief interpreter for Cornhusker defensive tackle Kenny Walker, a redshirt junior from Crane, Texas, who is deaf.

From Walker's first recruiting visit to the Lincoln campus, through three years of classes, both academic and the daily defense meetings during football sea-

sons, including three meetings on Labor Day, to her first visit to the Cornhusker locker room and press box during and after the Utah game, Mann has been a frequent companion of Walker's.

And even though she didn't know a screen door from a football screen play when she started, and wasn't much of a Nebraska fan, she's loved every bit of it.

"As my husband (Jim) says, three-fourths of Nebraska would give their left arm to do what I do," said Mann. "I don't even want to think about after next year (when Walker will graduate). I'll miss everyone because they've been really good to me."

An energetic and enthusiastic ex-teacher, Mann, 40, is the married

mother of two daughters who discovered sign language when performing with a choir at Lincoln's Sheridan Lutheran Church. The church has a deaf ministry, and a female interpreter was signing every word the choir was singing.

"We thought what we were singing was so beautiful, but it was not nearly as beautiful as what she was signing," said Mann.

She became a freelance interpreter six years ago, working occasionally with the state-financed Handicapped Services Office at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Four years ago, Mann received an assignment to meet Nebraska's football recruiters and a deaf prospect from Texas at the South Stadium.

Mann's life hasn't been the same

OPPORTUNITY



Kenny Walker

Mimi Mann has helped Kenny Walker open doors that might otherwise be closed.

since.

Walker, who wasn't really used to having an interpreter in his small hometown (he was the only deaf person in the county), and Mann hit it off immediately. Ever since, Mann has drawn the vast majority of interpreting assignments for Walker. This fall, she accompanies him to four classes, football meetings, and, when requested, games and scrimmages. Two other interpreters cover two other classes for Walker this fall.

Mann says it's been a tremendous and rewarding learning experience, though tackling the mostly man's sport has been a great challenge for the admitted football fledgling.

Her first football assignment was to

meet Walker at a meeting in the coaches' locker room. Nebraska has had female trainers, but the novelty of a woman entering the locker room didn't escape Mann. "I thought, 'What do I do? Are people naked in there? Am I intruding? Do I knock? Walk in?'"

Man oh Mann — a couple of coaches were surprised, and coaches and players alike had "some fun" with a woman attending their meetings, but Mann said she has been genuinely impressed with the cooperation and patience she's received.

That first meeting was a sign-language nightmare. Most sign language interpreters phrases, thus some football slang terms like "dog the three-gap" and "smoke through there" came out in sign

language like Lassie was climbing Mt. Everest and a smoke-ring contest was in progress.

"They might as well have been speaking Greek," Mann recalled. "When they said 'dog the three-gap' I knew I couldn't be giving the 'canine' sign."

After the meeting, the coaches explained that the phrase meant to hesitate before shooting a specific gap in the offensive line between the guard and tackle. Guards? Tackles? Gap in what line?

Said Mann, "We got to the point they had to tell me there were 11 players on a team."

The coaches, however, stayed late, drawing out the positions, explaining the game. "They never put me down, they

never made me feel like I was stupid," she said. "I've found that to be an overriding theme of all four years I've been around: the coaches are never too busy to be kind, never too busy to explain things to me.

"They don't look at me like I'm a fool when I ask those absolutely naive ques-

tions (about football). I always get the feeling we're on this team together."

Mann has since taken two football-for-wives classes taught by Husker assistant George Darlington. Darlington and other coaches have also taken on sign language taught by Mann.

Because of the gridiron education,

and her ability to decipher the football-ese, Mann said she feels a commitment to stay healthy, and not miss a day of meetings. Other interpreters might be as frustrated as she was, she said.

Mann said her assignment is to serve Walker and the coaches when called. Initially, that meant mostly meetings and classes — Walker, she said, is a master lip reader, and usually doesn't need help during games because he already knows what's planned.

Last year, however, when he switched positions from inside linebacker to tackle, Walker asked Mann to accompany him to a practice. It was fine, except Mann wore dress shoes and a white, silk blouse. She came away with some blood on the blouse from a scratched-up player, and the knowledge that jeans and

"Nothing is going to stop Kenny from living the life he wants to lead."

— Mimi Mann

running shoes might be better practice attire.

Mann's biggest thrill, however, was this year's Utah game. Because coaches expected an avalanche of passes from the Daffy-Duck formation Utes, and because Walker is, in effect, a first-team lineman on the Black Shirt's "dime" pass defense, coaches wanted Mann at more meetings to help ensure the best possible preparation. She was also asked, for the first time, to accompany Walker into the Nebraska locker room at halftime. Mann was probably the first female ever to do so.

"(That) Saturday was a memory maker for me," said Mann. "Watching from the pressbox, going into the locker room, then interpreting afterwards (at the postgame press conference), and then to see the stories in the paper on Sunday and that they were accurate. It was very heart-warming."

Mann said the biggest highlight was walking off the field with assistant coach

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Tony Samuel on the roped-off runway used by the players. "I thought my heart was going to burst out of my chest. I could imagine what a thrill it would be to walk through that adoring crowd onto the field."

Walker, Nebraska's fastest lineman with a 4.78 in the 40-yard dash, also had his most playing time ever as a Cornhusker, as the dime defense played about 75 percent of the game. He recorded three tackles, one for a loss of 2 yards, and one quarterback hurry.

Mann, who admits to be "a screamer," said she could barely contain herself in the press box, where cheering, grumbling or other outbursts are not allowed. Mann said she was forced to leave the press box a couple of times to yell a little, and when Walker made a tackle for a loss late in the game, Mann expressed her silent joy by nearly demolishing a phone book laying in front of her in the press box.

She said she's proud to provide a service to Walker, and proud of the success he has been able to achieve. She said she and her family have come to know Walker as a close friend, a "gentle giant" and "people person" who exhibits surprising sensitivity for a 6-foot-4, 230-pound lineman. He will wait for hours to sign autographs, she said.

"It seems like kids, especially kids with handicaps, are looking up to Kenny because he is overcoming an inconvenience," she said.

"(In Nebraska) there's nothing more wonderful than being a Cornhusker player, and if Kenny can do that, maybe that can inspire kids to aim for lofty goals and know that they have a chance of reaching them.

"Nothing is going to stop Kenny from living the life he wants to lead, and that's what makes him such an inspiration."

Mann was never so proud of Walker as after the Utah game.

"It's a good feeling. I think of what we've been through, times that required patience. We've been through a lot of weeks without a lot of glory and that week it was his turn to shine.

"Maybe that will forecast the future for him."

If so, you can bet Mann, panty hose and silk blouses and all, will be there. ■



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★ "If you ain't the lead dog, the scenery never changes."

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... Al McGuire

★ "Only two good things ever came out of Italy, and Sophia Loren has both of them."

... Rod Dedeaux

★ "Golf is a religious sport. Just hit a shank shot and see how fast you start a conversation with the Lord."

... Bob Hope

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Nation's Best Receivers

Predictably, there seems to be plenty of wide receivers in this year's high school crop but just as important, if not more so, there is a good supply of large and capable tight ends. In the latter category, it may be the best crop in several seasons.

As usual, there are some good ones in the Southeast and West Coast areas, but possibly the richest deposit of wideouts and tight ends could be in the state of Texas. They're fleet, sure-handed and surprisingly large in the Lone Star State. In fact, our composite of 33 tight ends and wide receivers includes a dozen from Texas.

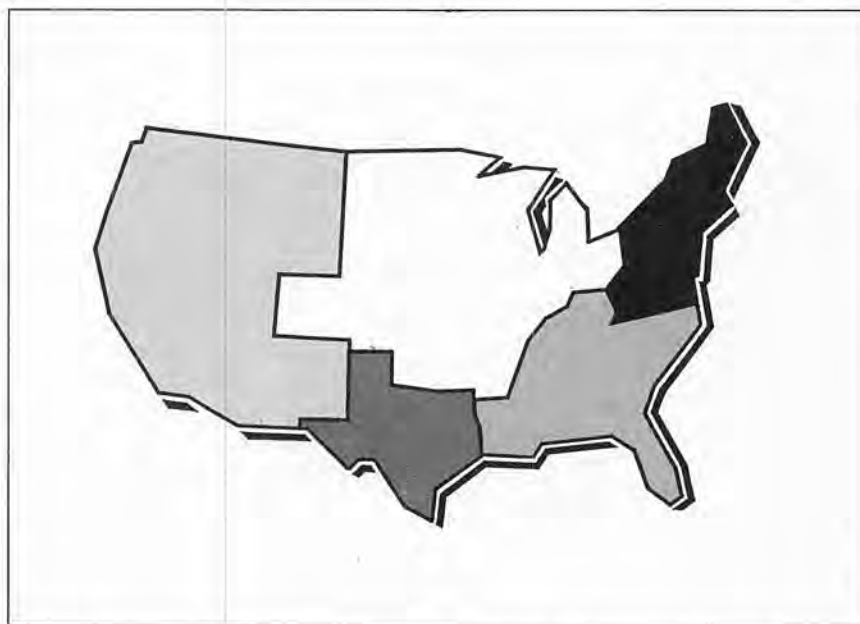
Wide receivers are quite visible in their duties on field, while tight ends are most often called on to perform in the combat zone of the interior line. After the fight, they adjust immediately to receiving the ball. Many of football's top coaching minds feel tight ends may have to be the best athletes on the field.

If this is true, then Nebraska has done a great job of hauling in the best talent in this area. Over the last 11 years in the football-strong Big Eight Conference, the Cornhuskers have provided the all-conference tight end five times, a rather remarkable figure if you remember Oklahoma's incomparable Keith Jackson, who claimed this honor three straight years (1985-87).

Huskers tapped for this honor include Junior Miller (1978-79), Jamie Williams (1981-82) and Todd Millikan (1988). If the talents at tight end require the combative and acrobatic skills advertised, how do the Huskers find such athletes?

Off-campus recruiter Jack Pierce admits, "We've been extremely lucky at Nebraska in recruiting tight ends. In fact, I guess you'd associate linebackers with Penn State and I-backs with USC; well, recently I think you can say the same for tight ends at Nebraska."

"We have a rather clear definition of what we want at tight end. He doesn't have to have that blazing speed, but we want a great blocker and a player with good hands. If he has great quickness



to go along with these first two requirements, then that's just a bonus."

Often we're guilty of stereotyping the academic profile of certain positions, giving the benefit of the doubt to players in the apparent skill positions. This year's prospective crop of tight ends has it all over the wide receivers academically. Of the 16 tight ends listed, eight have officially recorded at least the minimum testing standards for first year eligibility, four are predicted to have little or no trouble — although none have officially projected — and four are predicted to have trouble meeting the minimum entrance requirements.

The wideouts are a puzzling lot. Only three have officially recorded qualifying test marks, six more should make it — although there are no official test scores on record — and eight are projected to have academic problems. But, nonetheless, there is an abundance of physical talent.

First, the tight ends. Kyle Brady of Camp Hill, Pa., is the name most often mentioned among tight end prospects. His size (6-6 by 245) is ideal, he's officially in the books with a 940 on the SAT, but Penn State has been eyeing him

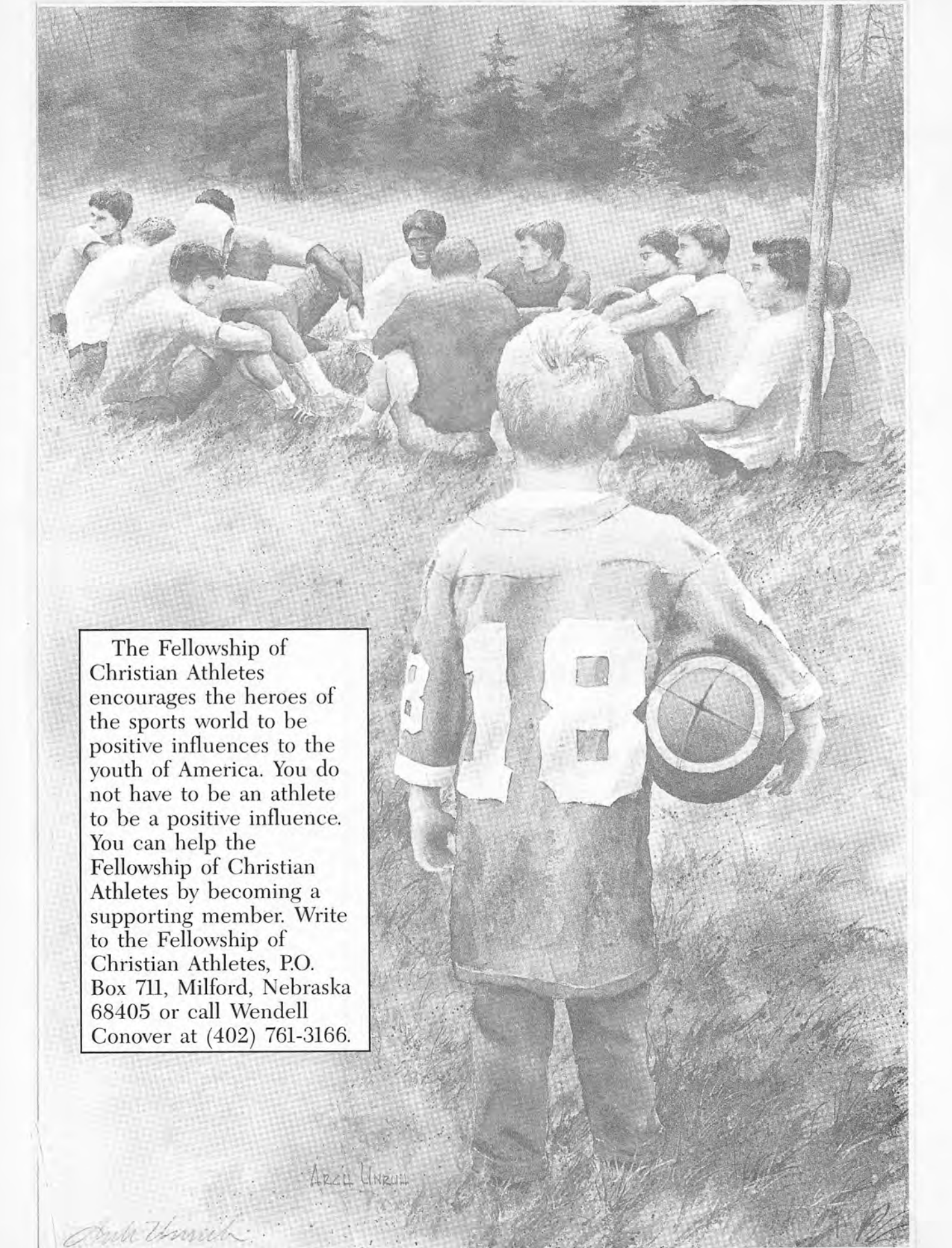
since his sophomore season and word has it he favors the Nittany Lions.

Ricky Brady (no relation to Kyle) of Putnam City, Okla., is academically qualified, has good speed and great hands. In Ricky's case, football recruiters are more concerned about basketball recruiters because Kyle averaged 24.7 points a game as a junior. It's likely all the majors in both football and basketball will call on this young man.

The Great Lakes area, aka Big Ten, usually has several in this category. Two of them are Patrick McNeil of Appleton, Wis., and Mike Lyons of Alliance, Ohio. There are others, but the state of Ohio may be best remembered for its bumper crop of running backs in 1989.

Now, let's dip into Texas where Roderick Wilson (Dallas Carter), Nicky Moore (Wichita Falls Rider) and Willie Townes (Dallas Bishop Dunne) might be the best of a half-dozen prospects. One college recruiter claimed, "If you could clone a perfect tight end prospect it would have to be Roderick Wilson."

Townes (his father played for the Dallas Cowboys) and Moore have outstanding speed, but the former is regarded as a rough prospect. Both can run. Wilson



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Recruiting

is a half-step slower in the 40, but there's little doubt his frame can carry lineman size and not lose any quickness.

Louisiana has a couple of good looking tight end hopefuls in Stan King (Monroe West) and Ronnie Rantz (Alexandria Menard). King's 4.6 speed in the 40 puts him in an unusual class of quickness along with Townes, Moore and Jason Green of La Puente, Calif. Ironically, Rantz is being rushed by Oklahoma State and Notre Dame (Can you believe this?) for his baseball talents.

There are plenty of rocket-class wide receivers, and eight of the players tapped are from Texas. A. C. Tellison (Bay City, home of OSU's Hart Lee Dykes) and Ron Peters — Sugar Land Willowridge) are "in-betweeners," large for tight ends and quick enough to play flanker. Both are projected wideouts and Southwest Conference schools are pledged to keep Peters, who is the third straight all-state tight end from Willowridge. The other two Willowridge all-staters, Charles Arbuckle and Joel Scott, are now playing for UCLA and USC, respectively.

If the recruiting gurus are right, Andre Hastings of Morrow, Ga., is the top wide receiver around, but Texas has "double trouble" twins in Jonathan Harris and Tony Harrison (Houston Forrest Brook), Scott Nady (Dallas White), Lloyd Hill (Odessa Permian), Lionel Frederick (Alvin, the home of Nolan Ryan), Ryan Matthews (Houston Lamar) and Henry Neal (Greenville). They all can run, jump and catch like colleges love to see. While there is plenty of time left to post qualifying test scores, only Nady and Tellison are on record as officially having made it.

California always has some excellent wide receivers and Kevin Copeland (Los Angeles Dorsey), Jeremy Smith (La Puente) and Charles Williams (Merced) fit the mold. Copeland is the best in the LA area, has a 33-inch vertical leap and family ties to UCLA and USC. Smith caught 12 touchdown passes a year ago, returned kicks and played in the defensive secondary. Many recruiters like Williams for his size and surprising route-running ability.

A pair of statistical marvels are Ray Lenderman of Grand Junction, Colo., and Harold Jasper of Brookhaven, N.Y.

Lenderman is described as "a perfect Steve Largent clone." This is quite a high testimony, indeed. Lenderman's stats are staggering. He caught 87 passes last year, 20 for touchdowns. He needs only 25 receptions in 1989 to set a national high school record for total receptions (he had 188 career catches going into 1989).

While Jasper is called a "fantastic athlete," the competition he faces at Bellport High School isn't the greatest. He has good speed, high jumps 6-10 and can run with the ball after he catches it

(he averaged 21.5 yards per reception as a junior). His high school coach claims "everybody is recruiting him," and while this may be true, most of the attention in this area will be centered on Texas.

We've always liked the projected "sleeper," and our candidate for this title in 1990 is Ryan Blakely of Mobile (Vigor), Ala. You won't hear about him catching many passes despite his 4.5 speed because this versatile athlete may wind up playing quarterback after a big junior season as a wide receiver. ■

Top 33 Pass Catchers

TIGHT ENDS

Name	Ht.	Wt.	Speed	Hometown
Kyle Brady	6-6	245	4.87	Camp Hill (Cedar Cliff), PA
Rickey Brady	6-5	220	4.7	Putnam City, OK
Tony Cline	6-5	230	4.7	Davis, CA
Jason Green	6-4	210	4.6	La Puente (Lamont), CA
Jay Greene	6-5	215	4.65	Flint (Central), MI
Hugo Iremia	6-4	242	4.75	Pt. Orange (Spruce Creek), FL
Corey Holobetz	6-4	225	4.65	Pottsville, PA
Stan King	6-4	220	4.6	Monroe (West), LA
Mike Lyons	6-5	235	4.75	Alliance, OH
Patrick McNeil	6-5	225	4.7	Appleton (West), WI
Nickey Moore	6-6	220	4.6	Wichita Falls (Rider), TX
Aaron Mundy	6-5	225	4.7	Hampton, VA
Ronnie Rantz	6-5	240	4.8	Alexandria (Menard), LA
Willie Townes	6-4	220	4.6	Dallas (Bishop Dunne), TX
Greg Troxell	6-3	240	4.7	Phillipsburg, NJ
Roderick Wilson	6-5	225	4.7	Dallas (Carter), TX

WIDE RECEIVERS



Ryan Blakely	6-0	175	4.5	Mobile (Vigor), AL
Kevin Copeland	5-11	170	4.5	Los Angeles (Dorsey), CA
Deddrick Crim	6-2	175	4.5	Birmingham (Phillips), AL
Lionel Frederick	5-10	180	4.5	Alvin, TX
Jonathan Harris	5-10	170	4.4	Houston (Forrest Brook), TX
Tony Harrison	6-0	185	4.5	Houston (Forrest Brook), TX
Andre Hastings	6-1	175	4.5	Morrow, GA
Lloyd Hill	6-1	185	4.5	Odessa (Permian), TX
Harold Jasper	5-11	175	4.5	Brookhaven (Bellport), NY
Ray Lenderman	5-11	170	4.5	Grand Junction, CO
Ryan Matthews	6-0	180	4.5	Houston (Lamar), TX
Scott Nady	6-2	185	4.4	Dallas (White), TX
Henry Neal	5-9	189	4.4	Greenville, TX
Ron Peters	6-1	205	4.5	Sugar Land (Willowridge), TX
Jeremy Smith	6-0	180	4.5	La Puente (Lamont), CA
A.C. Tellison	6-4	210	4.6	Bay City, TX
Charles Williams	6-2	185	4.6	Merced, CA

This list is a composite of prospects compiled by various media and recruiting services.

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The JV team has launched some coaching careers, too: (clockwise from bottom left) Dan Young, Frank Solich, John Melton and Cletus Fischer.

continued from page 37

man coach, Nebraska played just two opponents.

Air Force may play more games, but, says Mitchell, "We play some teams twice a year, just to get some competition for our kids."

Having a formidable foe like Nebraska on the schedule means a great deal to the Air Force coaches and players, in addition to fans who follow the Air Force football team.

According to Troy Garnhart, assistant sports information director at Air Force, "The entire Academy gets up for our JV games with Nebraska and BYU. Those are our two biggest games."

"The Nebraska game is big because it's against a Big Eight school, and naturally the BYU game is big because it is a WAC school and they're a big rival of ours in football."

Naturally, those are two games that Air Force would like to keep on its schedule.

Mitchell hopes the series with Nebraska continues well into the future.

"I'd like for the two teams to keep playing one another, and I think Shane would also," offered Mitchell.

"It really has turned into a good rivalry, and it's the sort of game that gives coaches an opportunity to find out what type of character our teams have."

Nebraska enters the game 1-0-1, with a 23-23 tie against Snow Junior College and a 76-0 victory over Bethany College.

At press time, Air Force was 0-1-1 after a 21-21 tie with Phoenix College and a 24-20 loss to BYU, with a game set for Sept. 29 versus Dodge City Community College.

Based on previous NU-Air Force games, shootout No. 4 could be a wild one.

But that's come to be expected in this series.

After all, these are two of the top JV programs in the entire country.

Both teams have worked hard to achieve such status, and both plan to work just as hard to maintain that status.

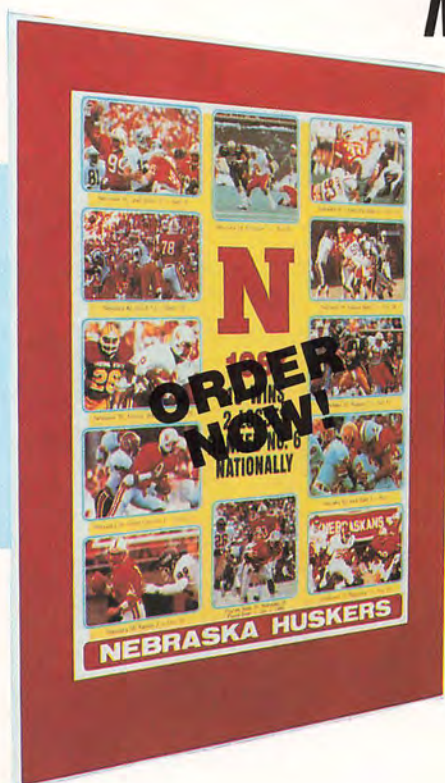
Certainly, Nebraska's freshman/JV program has helped make Nebraska the power that it is today in college football.

"It's just so beneficial," says Melton.

That it is, John. That it is. ■

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